

# Fruits Basket

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The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



5

Natsuki Takaya

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For a springtime treat, Shigure arranges for Tohru and the gang to spend Golden Week at the Sohmas' vacation home. On a rainy day, as the holiday draws to a close, who should make a surprise visit but Hatsuharu! But what's that he's hiding in the bundle under his arm? Why, it's the 5th volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*!



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# Fruits Basket™

## Volume 5



Natsuki Takaya

# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent when the Sohma family took me in.

I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



# Fruits Basket™

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# Fruits Basket Characters

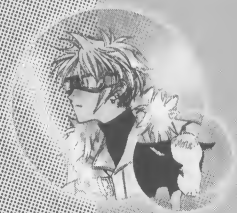


## Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.

## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark man of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



## Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

## Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.

Tohru's Best Friends



## Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

## Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



## Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and Miso. But mostly Yuki.

## Mabudachi Trio

## Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



## Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.

## Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



# Fruits Basket



Chapter 25



### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 1

You know how whenever Kyo and Yuki meet, they say "I really hate this guy"? Basically, what they mean is "I hate him more and more every day." It's hard to convey the nuance... (I get a lot of questions about it.) But I think the rhythm works better that way, so I didn't change it.

Sometimes, when I can't take the tension, I push the pause button.













WELLY  
WELLY  
WELL THEN!  
YOU'LL ALL  
COME ALONG  
WITH ME  
TOMORROW,  
WON'T YOU?

I'm  
back.

I'M  
HO-O-ME!

Ah!

WELCOME  
HOME,  
SHIGURE-  
SAN!



I PROTEST!  
I MAY DRINK  
SAKE, KYO-  
KUN, BUT  
I DO NOT  
GET DRUNK.

HA  
HA  
HA!

...WHY  
ARE YOU  
SUDDENLY  
SAYING  
STUFF THAT  
DOESN'T  
MAKE ANY  
SENSE?

ARE YOU  
DRUNK?

HUH?

WELL,  
GOLDEN WEEK  
STARTS  
TOMORROW,  
RIGHT?

VACATIONS  
LIKE THIS  
DON'T COME  
UP EVERY DAY,  
SO LET'S GO  
SOMEWHERE!

NOT  
THAT IT  
WOULD  
MATTER...  
HE ALWAYS  
ACTS  
DRUNK.

COME ON, COME  
ON! WE COULD  
GO TO A SOHMA  
SUMMER HOME,  
OR STAY AT A  
RESORT!

RIGHT,  
TOHRU-KUN?  
TELL 'EM.

EH  
?!



...BUT  
THERE'S  
SOME-  
THING  
STRANGE...

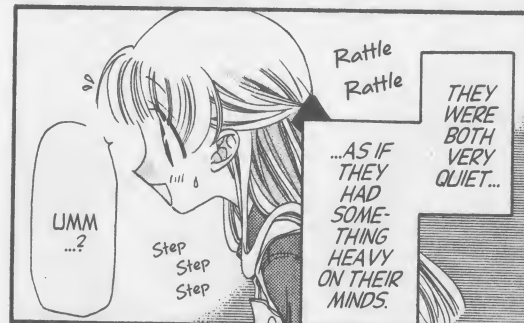
...ABOUT  
THE WAY  
YUKI-KUN  
AND KYO-  
KUN ARE  
ACTING.



silence...

IT ALL  
BEGAN  
YESTER-  
DAY...

...ON THE  
NIGHT  
OF THE  
DAY WE  
VISITED  
MOM'S  
GRAVE.



Rattle  
Rattle

THEY  
WERE  
BOTH  
VERY  
QUIET...

...AS IF  
THEY  
HAD  
SOME-  
THING  
HEAVY  
ON THEIR  
MINDS.

UMM  
...?

Step  
Step  
Step

Fruits Basket 5  
Part 1:

Hajimemashite and Konnichiwa! Takaya here. Welcome to Furuba Vol. 5. Wow, it came up fast. I don't see how I have the time... If you think about it, this is my 17th book, so only three more and it'll be twenty, won't it? (That's right.) It just blows me away. Now, about Kagura, our Cover Girl—her name sounds perfect the way it is, so I can't give her a nickname. It's like, Kagura is Kagura. Kagura's poses can be girlier than any of the other characters (to put it simply, she's a burikko—a childlike woman (is that term even used anymore?)), so she makes me giggle (how?). People who started reading my works with Furuba probably don't know this, but Takaya loves to draw girls. I really like drawing boys, too. I'm so happy! (laugh).

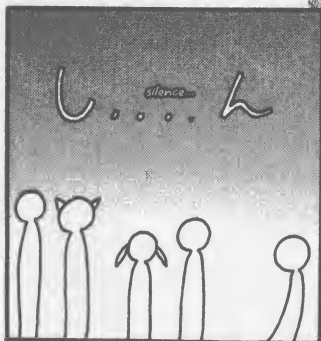


Now they're being manipulated.



...THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD TAKE TOHRUKUN FOR A WALK DOWN TO THE LAKE.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO THAN PICK ON PEOPLE...



IT SADDENS MY HEART THAT YOU WOULD SUSPECT ME SO.

I HONESTLY JUST WANTED TO GO ON A TRIP WITH EVERYONE.

DEAR, DEAR, YOU TWO ARE SO CYNICAL.

OF COURSE!

LET'S CALL Aaya!!



...WE NEED SOMEONE BRIGHT.

HMPH. YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE. TO CURE THIS GLOOM...

YOU'RE SO GLOOMY.

WHAT? WHAT'S EATING YOU TWO?

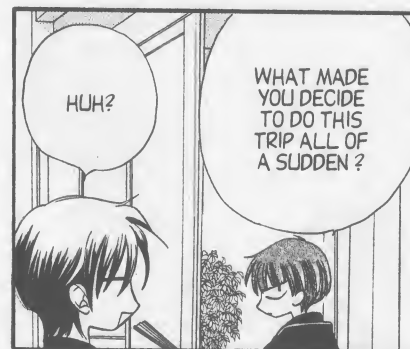
UM, IT'S OKAY, I CAN GO BY MYSELF.



HAA-SAN'S DRIVING IS SO POLITE. ISN'T IT GRAND?!

...THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED

Left-sided steering wheel (meaning he's driving a Western car—Japanese steering wheels are typically on the right, like England)



HUH?

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO DO THIS TRIP ALL OF A SUDDEN?



YOU DON'T HAVE SOME ULTERIOR MOTIVE?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.



BUT I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT THE TWO OF THEM BROODING LIKE THAT.

...THAT WE CAME TO THIS SUMMER HOUSE.

HEY, SHIGURE.

flap

I'm going on a journey. Please don't look for me.

Shigure Sohma ♡

flap

flap

YOU'RE BEING MEAN TO YOUR EDITOR AGAIN?

DON'T TELL ME.



IT'S OKAY! HE'S JUST TEASING YOU AGAIN!

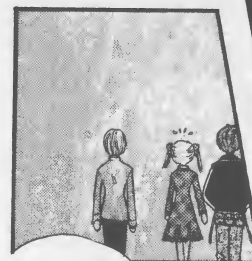
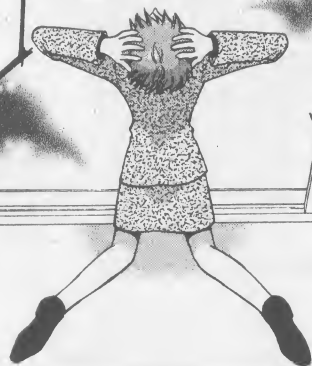
I'm going on a journey. Please don't look for me.  
Shigure Sohma ♡

MITCHAN!!

MITCHAN, JUST COME BACK TO THE OFFICE!!

DON'T DO ANYTHING DRASTIC!!

PLEASE, MITCHAN...



THEY SHOULD HAVE JUST GONE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THEY'VE BEEN STRANGELY DOWN-HEARTED SINCE YESTERDAY.

Those two.



SHIGURE.



ABOUT WHY YOU SUDDENLY DECIDED TO COME OUT HERE...







ONLY, THE TWO OF THEM ARE SO NICE THAT THEY COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING...

AH!

THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT IT'S BECAUSE OF ME!!

I MUST HAVE SAID OR DONE SOMETHING TO OFFEND THEM WHEN WE WERE VISITING MOM'S GRAVE!

I REALLY AM SO STUPID, I DIDN'T NOTICE AT ALL...

UM, UM, UM... IF I DID ANYTHING TO OFFEND YOU, PLEASE TELL ME!



\* The kanji in the background means 'to like'

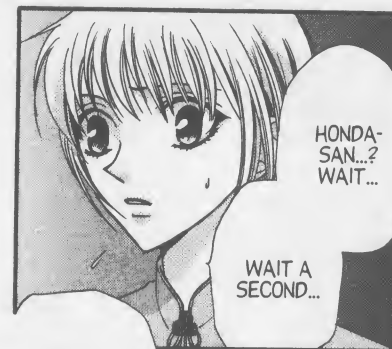
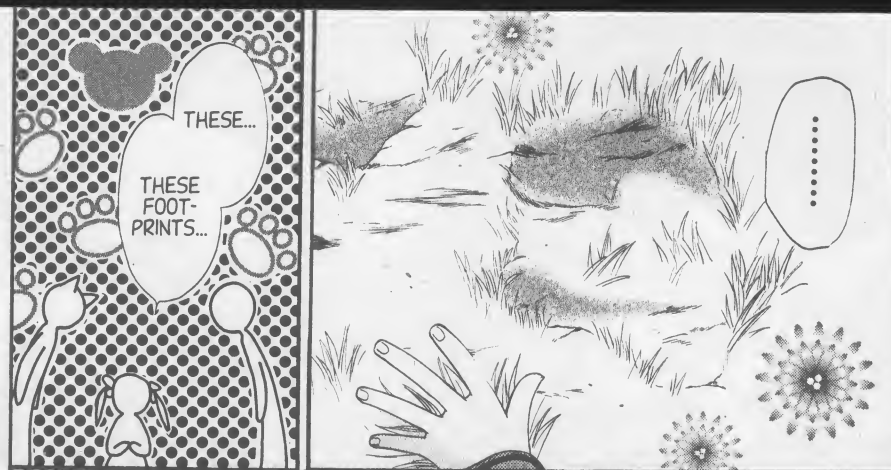


I DON'T REMEMBER THEM BEING LIKE THIS BEFORE WE VISITED MOM'S GRAVE...



WHAT COULD BE THE CAUSE?







LATER.

YES, YES.  
IT'S OKAY.

THE  
MANUSCRIPT  
IS ALREADY  
DONE. IT'S  
JUST A  
JOKE.

YES, YES.  
UH-HUH,  
YEAH.



Because  
next to  
me, what  
Haa-san  
loves most  
is a good  
book.

WHAT BETTER  
WAY TO TAKE  
ADVANTAGE  
OF THIS CARE-  
FREE LEISURE  
TIME THAN BY  
CATCHING UP  
WITH YOUR  
READING?!

No...  
well,  
I do  
like  
reading...

They're mostly Western books.



I SEE...



OH  
NO!

YOU  
CAN'T BE  
BORED,  
HAA-SAN!

I BROUGHT  
AN ASSORT-  
MENT OF  
RECOMMENDED  
BOOKS.

HM?



I HAVE  
HUMBLY PUT  
IN A CALL TO  
MY EDITOR...

OF  
COURSE.  
Don't cry...



I'M  
BORED,  
TOO.

I'm bored!  
I'm bored!  
I'm bored!

Has  
nothing  
to do.



AH.



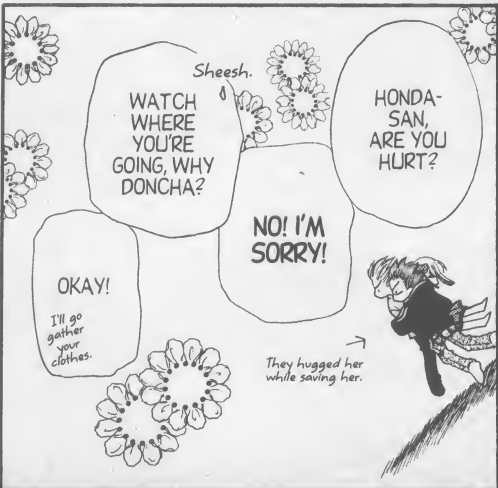


I'M SO SORRY!

I'M SORRY!

I'M SORRY!

THEY'RE NOT REALLY FINE.



Sheesh.

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, WHY DONCHA?

HONDA-SAN, ARE YOU HURT?

NO! I'M SORRY!

OKAY!

I'll go gather your clothes.

They hugged her while saving her.



I WONDER IF TOHRU-KUN AND THE OTHERS ARE GETTING ALONG?

IF SHE'S WITH THEM, I'M SURE IT'S FINE.



Yes?

SHIGURE ...

KANA'S WEDDING... MAYBE THAT'S WHY SHIGURE'S SO WORRIED ABOUT ME.

COME TO THINK OF IT, AYAME CAME BY TO SEE ME RECENTLY, TOO...

Here, I made you some tea.

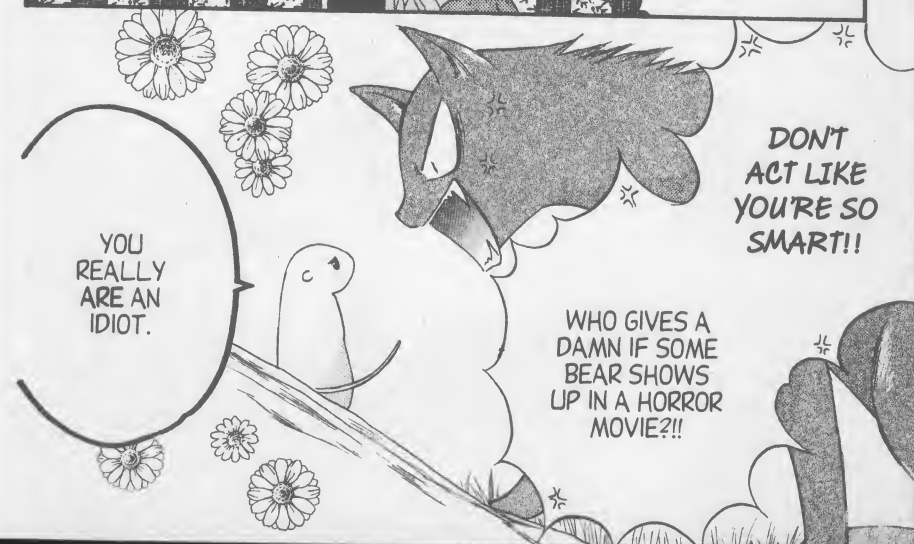
Gulp it down.

You must be tired from work.

NO.

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT HAS BEEN A WHILE...

...SINCE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO JUST SIT DOWN AND RELAX WITH A BOOK.



BEFORE TODAY,  
I COULDN'T  
DO ANYTHING  
ABOUT YOUR  
FIGHTING  
EXCEPT  
WATCH AND  
WORRY...

...BUT NOW,  
IT GIVES  
ME SOME  
PEACE OF  
MIND.



WHEN I  
THOUGHT  
THAT, I  
FELT SO  
RELIEVED.

I JUST...

IT'S  
STRANGE,  
ISN'T IT...

IT'S  
WEIRD...

HONDA-SAN...  
YOU WERE  
SAYING SOME-  
THING BEFORE  
WE FELL.

UM...  
WELL...

HONDA-  
SAN...

...



HONDA-  
SAN...?

W-  
WHAT?!

AH!  
OH, I'M  
SORRY!

AH HA  
HA HA  
HA!

HEE  
HEE!

YOU'RE  
FIGHTING...

HEE  
HEE... AH  
HA HA!



AAAH...

...THE TWO  
OF YOU  
WERE BACK  
TO NORMAL  
AGAIN...

...LIKE  
THAT.

...I FELT  
RELIEVED.

YOU WERE  
FIGHTING, BUT  
I LAUGHED...  
THAT WAS  
RUDE OF ME.

B-BUT  
FOR SOME  
REASON...





I JUST WASN'T REALLY...

I'M NOT REALLY MAD EITHER...

AT ANYTHING.

I JUST...

...FEELING VERY WELL.

IN THE HEAD?

NO...!

Aaahh~!

The two of them are clamping clothes.



EH?!

BUT I'M ALRIGHT NOW.

I'M SORRY...

I WASN'T ANGRY WITH YOU OR ANYTHING, HONDA-SAN.

IF IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS MAD, IT WAS...

...FOR WORRYING YOU.

IT WAS...

IT WAS... JUST THAT I WASN'T FEELING WELL...

ME TOO.

...WHEN  
THEY'RE  
ENERGETIC.

IT REALLY IS  
BETTER...

BUT THINKING  
THAT IT'S GOOD  
FOR THEM TO  
BE FIGHTING...

...IS PRETTY  
STRANGE.

STILL...



EXCEPT  
THAT  
I REALLY  
HATE THIS  
GUY.

TH-THAT'S A  
RELIEF. I'M  
GLAD THAT  
YOU WEREN'T  
FEELING  
WELL.

NO, WAIT! I'M  
NOT GLAD  
ABOUT THAT,  
IT'S JUST  
YOU HAVEN'T  
CHANGED--  
UM--  
THAT IS.

AA!

CHANGED?

I HAVEN'T  
REALLY  
CHANGED  
AT ALL...

rustle  
rustle

← speaking of "changing" →



HEE  
HEE.



I'M GLAD.



WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY?

AAA  
?!

WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY?!

I'LL HATE  
YOU MY  
WHOLE LIFE!  
I HATE YOU  
SO MUCH I  
COULD DIE!!

GO AHEAD.  
IT WOULD  
SAVE ME  
THE EFFORT.



## Chapter 26



\*Book: Summer-colored Sigh. See vol. 2, pg. 18



IT REALLY  
IS FOR THE  
BEST.

DO YOU  
THINK  
MAYBE WE  
SHOULD  
CALL IT A  
DAY?

YEAH.  
WE CAN  
ALWAYS  
GO TO THE  
LAKE...

...  
TOMORROW.

OKAY!

YOU  
LIKE?

IT MAKES  
ME SICK.





HAH!  
HATORI-SAN, WE'RE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF...

...OKAY...?



KYO-KUN? EVERYONE NEEDS TO SLEEP.

HATORI SLEEPS?

EH?

YES.

HAA-SAN'S SLEEPING?

OH?



Yes!

HERE WE ARE, STILL AT THE SOHMA'S SUMMER HOUSE.

SOMEHOW... I HAVE A FEELING HONDA-SAN IS MORE LIKELY TO FALL IN.

Ah ha ha ha!

I'll keep a close eye on her.

I WON'T FALL IN!!

HONDA-SAN, ARE YOU READY TO GO?

YES! I'M PERFECTLY READY!

YOU'RE GOING TO THE LAKE?

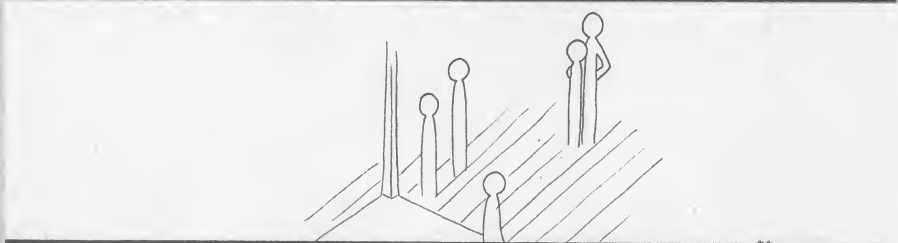
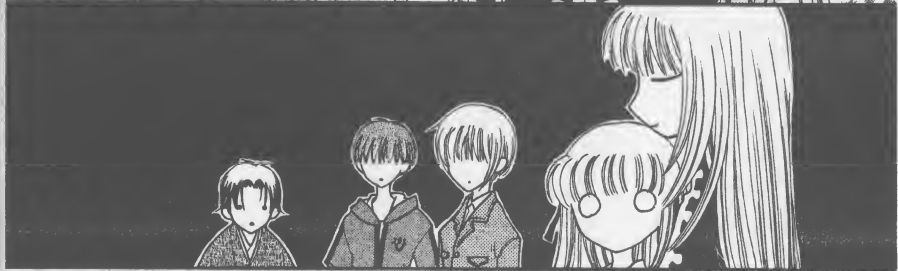
DON'T FALL IN, KYO-KUN.

## ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

Hatori is pretty popular, isn't he? I can say this now, but at first he wasn't liked at all. So now that I've felt his popularity has gone up, I feel like it was worth it to work hard on him.

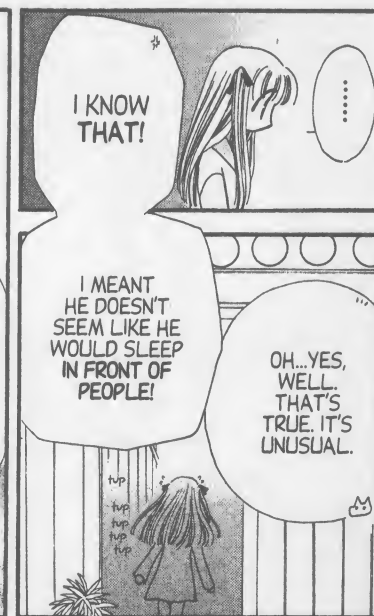


YOU  
HAVE MY  
PRAISE.



POOR  
THING.  
HE'S  
TIRED.

SO  
MUCH  
ON HIS  
MIND.



I KNOW  
THAT!

I MEANT  
HE DOESN'T  
SEEM LIKE HE  
WOULD SLEEP  
IN FRONT OF  
PEOPLE!

OH... YES,  
WELL.  
THAT'S  
TRUE. IT'S  
UNUSUAL.



EH?!

YOU'RE  
SO KIND,  
TOHRU-KUN.  
YOU'LL MAKE  
SOMEONE A  
GOOD WIFE.

NO,  
THAT'S...



UH...  
UM...

...SO I  
BROUGHT  
HIM A  
BLANKET.

HE'LL  
CATCH A  
COLD LIKE  
THAT...





A CERTAIN...  
INDIVIDUAL  
...?

GASP!

I KNOW  
YOU'RE ALL  
OVERWHELMED  
WITH TEARS  
OF GRATITUDE  
UPON MEETING  
ME AGAIN, BUT  
PLEASE CALM  
DOWN A LITTLE.

I CAME HERE  
WITH THE  
HELP OF  
A CERTAIN  
INDIVIDUAL.

GENTLE-  
MEN!

JUST  
A... NO!

I SWEAR,  
IT WASN'T  
ME!!

EH?!

AAYA...  
I CAN  
ALWAYS  
COUNT ON  
YOU TO  
MAKE MY  
HEART  
SOAR!

*Je t'aime,  
mon  
amour,  
bon voyage!*

NO NEED  
TO FEAR,  
GURE-SAN!

WELL?!

WHAT  
THE HELL  
DID YOU  
COME  
HERE FOR  
?!

*Annyeong  
haseyminmal!*

EVEN IF THE  
ENTIRE WORLD  
TURNS AGAINST  
YOU, I WILL  
FOREVER BE ON  
YOUR SIDE!



HA HA HA HA

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
EVERY-  
ONE?  
YOU'RE  
ALL SO  
STIFF.

ARE YOU  
SICK?!

IT'S BECAUSE  
YOU SHOWED  
UP SUDDENLY!!

Daahh!

YOU'RE  
THE LAST  
PERSON  
I WANNA  
HEAR THAT  
FROM!!

HELLO,  
AYAME-  
SA...

DON'T  
YOU LEARN  
ANYTHING?!  
WHERE THE  
HELL DID YOU  
MATERIALIZE  
FROM?!

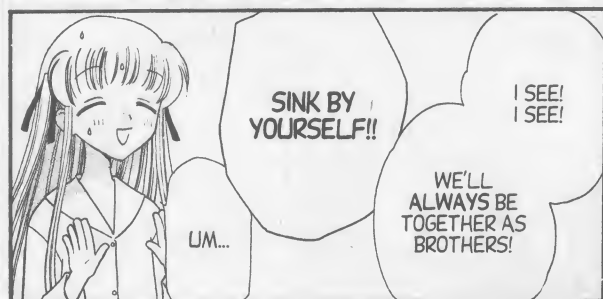
I CAME  
IN THROUGH  
THE DOOR,  
OBVIOUSLY.

KYONKICHI,  
YOU REALLY  
ARE SUCH A  
SIMPLETON.

HONDA-  
SAN, HE'S  
DANGEROUS.  
DON'T GO  
NEAR HIM.

Fruits Basket 5  
Part 2:

I talk about games a lot in this column, but when I do, I get a lot of letters that say, "I don't follow video games, so I don't understand. Talk about something else." But haven't more girls been playing video games lately? I wonder. I wonder... It's the same feeling as turning on the TV, so I feel like maybe it's a part of my life, like what else would I do but playing video games? In other words, when I'm not working, all I would do is play video games. So I didn't have anything to talk about aside from work or video games. (I don't feel sad at all saying that.) I don't even know how many PS memory cards I have anymore.





HE'S  
INSANE!!

UPON GOING TO THE MAIN  
HOUSE AND HEARING FROM A MAID  
(AGE 53) THAT TORI-SAN WAS WITH  
EVERYONE AT A SUMMER HOME,  
I THOUGHT-- IN THAT CASE--  
I WANTED TO JOIN YOU ALL, AND  
LEFT IMMEDIATELY. OF COURSE,  
I CAME BY CAR, COMFORTABLY  
AND INVINCIBLY.

IN FRONT  
OF HATORI,  
HE JUST ANSWERS  
THE  
QUESTION!!!



OH?

AH...

REALLY?



IF YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
ESCORT A  
LADY, YOU  
HAVE TO BE  
MORE CHIC  
ABOUT IT.

I DON'T KNOW  
WHY YOU'RE  
STILL LAZING  
ABOUT IN HERE.

IN THAT  
CASE, YOU  
MUST  
GO RIGHT  
AWAY.



YUKI,  
KYO...

WEREN'T YOU  
TWO GOING TO  
TAKE HONDA-  
KUN TO THE  
LAKE TODAY?



HATORI-  
SAN...! DID  
WE WAKE  
YOU UP...?

NO ONE  
WOULD  
BE ABLE  
TO SLEEP  
THROUGH  
ALL THAT  
NOISE...

WHY,  
HELLO,  
TORI-SAN!



WELL?

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?

EH?



I THOUGHT  
I TOLD YOU  
NOT TO  
BOTHER  
PEOPLE TOO  
MUCH...

...AYAME.



SORRY  
FOR  
WAKING  
YOU UP.

Tori-  
san,  
good  
morning!

I WAS  
TRYING MY  
BEST TO  
KEEP IT  
DOWN!

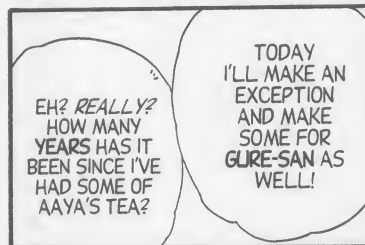
UGH...  
JUST BE  
QUIET...





OH!  
TORI-SAN!

IF YOU  
NEED ANY  
TEA, I WILL  
OF COURSE  
MAKE SOME  
FOR YOU!



EH? REALLY?  
HOW MANY  
YEARS HAS IT  
BEEN SINCE I'VE  
HAD SOME OF  
AAYA'S TEA?

TODAY  
I'LL MAKE AN  
EXCEPTION  
AND MAKE  
SOME FOR  
GURE-SAN AS  
WELL!



ALL  
right!!

He's  
used  
to it.

YOU NEVER  
GET TIRED  
OF THAT,  
DO YOU?



NON, NON!  
EVEN IF  
I MADE SOME  
FOR YUKI, HE  
WOULDN'T  
DRINK IT.

IS THE  
OTHER ONE  
YUKI-KUN?

WELL, OF  
COURSE  
ONE OF  
THEM IS  
AKITO-  
SAN.

Sad,  
isn't it?



Of  
course!

BE  
GRATEFUL!

ASIDE FROM  
TORI-SAN,  
THERE ARE  
ONLY TWO  
PEOPLE...

...WHO CAN  
DRINK MY  
TEA!



AAYA,  
I THOUGHT  
FOR SURE  
YOU'D WANT  
TO FOLLOW  
THEM.

WHAT ARE  
YOU SAYING,  
GURE-SAN?  
I WOULD  
NEVER BE SO  
BOORISH.

BESIDES, IT'S  
BEEN A LONG  
TIME SINCE THE  
THREE OF US  
HAVE BEEN ABLE  
TO SPEND TIME  
TOGETHER.



THE NIGHT  
IS LONG...  
I WON'T LET  
YOU SLEEP  
TONIGHT...

...GURE-  
SAN.

Decided this 7 seconds ago.



I'M HONORED...  
THAT TONIGHT  
I CAN SHARE THE  
SAME DREAM  
AS YOU...

...AAYA.



IT'S  
YOUR  
FAULT!

AH!

UH,  
UH, UM,  
WELL,  
THAT IS...

WE'LL BE  
GOING TO  
THE LAKE  
NOW.

YES...



THAT'S NONE  
OF YOUR  
BUSINESS!

DON'T TALK  
TO ME LIKE  
YOU KNOW  
EVERYTHING!

WHO'S BEING  
DEPENDENT  
ON OTHERS,  
LOSER?

YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO'S  
RELYING ON  
SHIGURE.

YOU'RE HANGING  
AROUND IN FRONT  
OF ME, SO I'M  
GONNA SEE YOU  
WHETHER I LIKE  
IT OR NOT!!

I'M NOT  
TALKING TO  
YOU 'CAUSE  
I WANT TO!!

After being  
so happy  
yesterday, she  
can't bring  
herself to stop  
them. →

I COMPLETELY  
AGREE. SEEING  
THE LAKE  
WITH YOU  
IS ENDLESS  
TORTURE!

WHY DO I HAVE  
TO SEE THE  
STUPID LAKE  
WITH YOU,  
ANYWAY?!

Oh  
yeah  
?!

I'D  
LOVE TO  
LEAVE!!

THEN YOU  
SHOULD JUST  
LEAVE!

Keh!!

THIS IS STUPID!  
I WISH WE  
NEVER CA--!

gaspl

ムッ



SOMEHOW,  
I FEEL VERY  
REFRESHED.

HAAAAHH...

THAT  
GUY...

DOES HE  
PLAN TO  
STAY THE  
NIGHT?

I HATE THAT...  
I HATE IT WHEN  
PEOPLE ARE SO  
DEPENDENT ON  
OTHERS!

IF I  
COULD, DON'T  
YOU THINK I  
WOULD HAVE  
ALREADY?

HE'S YOUR  
BROTHER.

DO  
SOMETHING.



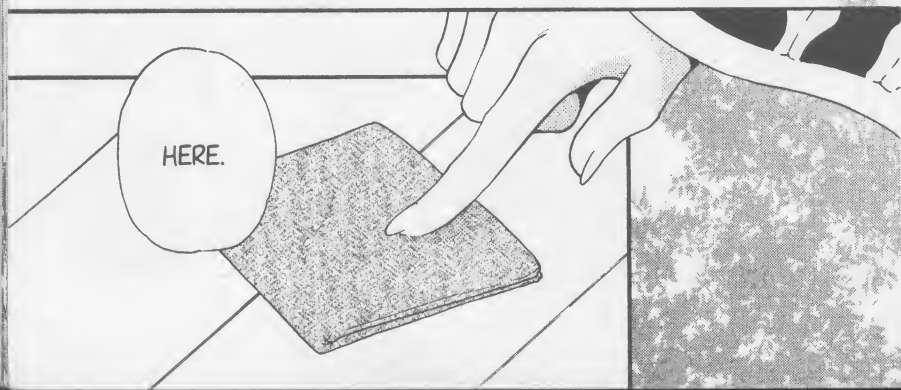


CAN WE WALK  
AROUND THE  
EDGE OF THE  
LAKE?!

...I  
GUESS.

ISN'T IT  
PRETTY?!!

OKAY.



HERE.



DON'T  
GET ME  
WRONG!

THAT'S  
NOT WHAT  
I MEANT,  
HONDA-SAN!

AH!

I JUST  
HATE BEING  
WITH HIM...

EH?!

IT'S NOT THAT  
I HATE THE  
LAKE ITSELF,  
OKAY!!

EH?!



!

NO...

IT'S FINE  
...REALLY  
...

WELL, YOU  
UNDER-  
STAND...

AH...

blush

O...  
KAY...

EH...?



I WAS AFRAID SHE MIGHT HAVE FLASHBACKS.

OH, BUT HAA-SAN, YOU ENDED UP NOT GOING TO THE CEREMONY, RIGHT?

YOU REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HER, DID YOU?

KANA'S MEMORIES AREN'T BURIED VERY DEEP.

IF SHE HAPPENED TO REMEMBER SOMETHING, IT WOULD BE... PROBLEMATIC.

PROBLEMATIC?



IT'S OVER BETWEEN KANA AND ME.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET BACK TOGETHER.

How dramatic!

YES, YES! AND YOU COULD STEAL HER FROM THE GROOM, JUST LIKE IN THE GRADUATE!

BUT IF SHE WERE TO REMEMBER THOSE GOOD OL' DAYS...

...YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ALL LOVEY-DOVEY AGAIN!

Look, you...



IT'S YOUR CHOICE WHETHER TO LOOK AT THEM AT NOT.

WHAT IS IT?

YOU'RE KIDDING. YOU WENT, AAYA?

NON, NON! I GOT THEM FROM MAYU-KUN.

PICTURES!

OF KANA-KUN'S WEDDING!



THE MAYUKO WHO BROKE UP WITH SHIGURE AFTER JUST A MONTH?

YEAH... SHE WAS A COLLEGE FRIEND OF KANA'S.

UH...

BUT OF COURSE I SAW MAYU-KUN, THE GIRL WHO CALLED YOU JUST A RIPPLE BEFORE SHE DUMPED YOU AFTER ONLY A MONTH.

NO, THAT IS...

I WAS YOUNG...

MAYU?

YOU SAW MAYU?

NOW,  
ALL  
I CAN  
DO...

...IS  
PRAY.

...I DON'T THINK  
I WANT HER  
NEAR ME.

AND  
I DON'T  
PLAN TO  
SEE HER.

IT WOULD  
ONLY END  
IN SADNESS  
FOR HER...  
AND FOR ME.

I...  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
THINK...

...THAT THE  
LOVE HAS  
DISAPPEARED  
...

...BUT...

BE HAPPY,  
KANA.



EVEN IF  
WE WERE  
TOGETHER  
...

...I WOULD  
ONLY MISS  
HER...

WE CAN'T GO  
BACK TO THE  
WAY THINGS  
WERE.

THE FEELINGS OF  
GUILT AND SHAME  
WON'T DISAPPEAR.

THEY'D SPREAD  
LIKE A CANCER...

...EATING  
AWAY AT  
THE LIGHT  
AND THE  
JOY THAT  
KANA ONCE  
BROUGHT ME.

I...







HE DOES  
HAVE A POINT.  
YOU ALWAYS  
LET PEOPLE  
PUSH THEIR  
TROUBLES  
ONTO YOU.

*Come, come,  
Gure-san.  
Feel free to  
chime in.*

TORI-SAN,  
YOU'RE  
TOO KIND!

I REALIZE  
KINDNESS IS ONE  
OF YOUR BEST  
FEATURES, BUT  
SERIOUSLY, YOU GO  
WAY OVERBOARD.  
THAT'S WHY YOU  
ALWAYS KEEP  
SUFFERING  
NEEDLESSLY.

THESE TWO  
SHOULD  
KNOW...

*Chief suppliers of Hatori's trouble.*



...THAN YOU  
WOULD BE  
WITH KANA-  
KUN!

...I WANT  
YOU TO BE  
TWO THOUSAND  
TIMES HAPPIER  
...

I WON'T  
TELL YOU  
TO GET BACK  
TOGETHER  
WITH KANA-  
KUN.

INSTEAD,  
PLEASE  
ALLOW ME  
TO SPEAK  
FRANKLY.

YOU KNOW,  
TORI-SAN, I...



I'M A  
TORI-SAN  
SUPPORTER,  
SO I FULLY  
ADMIT THAT  
I'M BIASED...

I WON'T  
AGREE WITH  
THAT.

...BUT  
I WON'T  
AGREE WITH  
THAT.

IT'S NOT  
FAIR OF  
KANA-KUN!



I CAN'T HELP  
BUT FEEL THAT  
TORI-SAN WAS  
LEFT BEHIND TO  
EAT SMOKE.

...AND OBTAINED  
HAPPINESS  
FOR HERSELF,  
LEAVING TORI-  
SAN TO TAKE  
ON ALL OF THE  
PAIN ALONE!

TO ME, IT  
LOOKS LIKE  
KANA-KUN  
FORGOT  
EVERYTHING  
...



THAT'S...

...NOT  
HOW I  
FEEL.

REALLY  
...?



...WHEN I  
THINK OF  
THE PAIN WE  
CAN CAUSE  
SOMEONE WE  
LOVE...

...I FEEL  
THAT THE  
MEMORIES  
OF MY TIME  
WITH KANA  
ARE ENOUGH.

I THINK  
I CAN  
GET BY...

...WITHOUT  
ANYONE ELSE.

Aki

THEY'RE  
BACK.

FOR US,  
THE  
CURSED  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
ZODIAC...

...YOU CAN  
BE TRULY  
HAPPY  
WITH.

I'M A  
NOVELIST. A  
NOVELIST.

SPOKEN  
LIKE A TRUE  
POET.

GOOD JOB,  
GURE-SAN!

No,  
no...

THAT'S  
A VERY  
RECKLESS  
WISH.

A NEW  
WOMAN  
...

EH?  
REALLY?

IF  
ONLY...

...YOU WOULD  
SHOW YUKI  
THAT KIND OF  
CONVICTION.

BUT,  
WELL...

HM...

ANYWAY...

A  
WOMAN  
WHO...

...WHEN  
YOU MEET A  
NEW WOMAN,  
I HOPE THAT  
SHE IS SOMEONE  
...

YOU  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE TO STAY  
DISTANT FROM,  
EVEN WHEN  
YOU'RE WITH  
HER.

NEXT  
TIME...

Because  
one  
thousand  
times isn't  
enough!

Two  
thousand?  
Why two  
thousand?



HEY!

BY THE WAY, YUKI...

I JUST RECEIVED SOME ADVICE FROM TORI-SAN.

FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO DEEPEN OUR BOND WITH MY FORCEFUL CONVICTION!

THIS IS THE BEST WAY!



MY, MY. WELCOME BACK, YUKI!

AND YOU'RE WITH YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS!

WHO'RE YOU CALLING HIS FRIEND?!

...TO SMILE.



YUKI!!!

I MEAN--!! YUKI IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER, AND I AM YUKI'S OLDER BROTHER!

BASED ON THIS INDISPUTABLE FACT, I WILL MAKE THIS DECLARATION!



...THE BEST WAY IS FOR HIM TO GIVE UP.

FORCEFUL... CONVICTION?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



ALL THAT I CAN DO NOW...

...IS WATCH OVER THEM...

SO THAT THEY DON'T LOSE THE WILL...

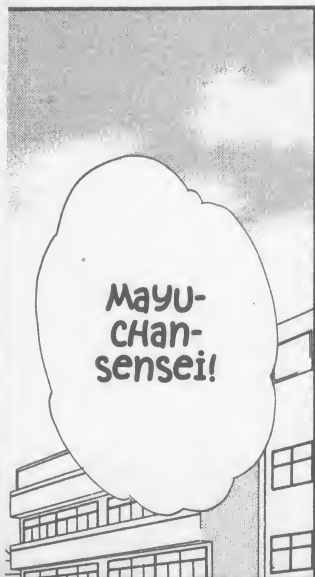
...DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES.

...SO THAT THEY...



...STILL  
BE MORE  
FOR YOU  
IN LIFE.

THERE  
MIGHT...







## Chapter 27

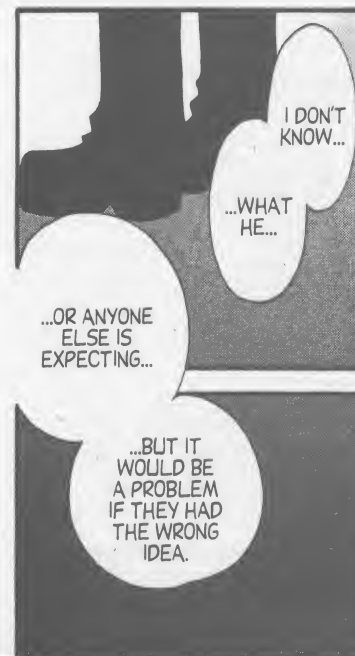
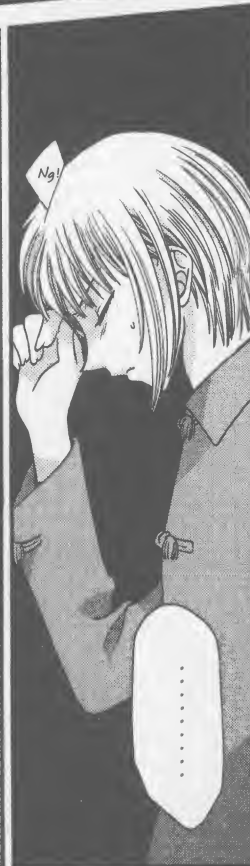
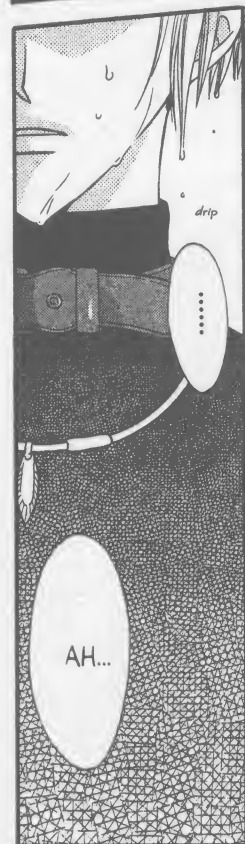






### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 3

I feel like it's high time I introduce Kisa... Actually, now that I think of it, it's more like Yuki somehow summoned her. The way I see it, the hardships in our lives never disappear completely. There must be an exit waiting for us somewhere at the end. ...Well...I want to think that. Hmm, I wonder.





I WAS  
LOOKING...

...FOR  
HER.



I THOUGHT  
SHE'D SAY  
THAT...

What  
a cute  
Kitty!!



!



HATSUHARU-  
SAN?!

IF IT  
ISN'T  
YUKI.

HARU...



THAT'S MY  
LINE.

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
OUT HERE IN  
THE RAIN?



LOOKING  
FOR  
SOMETHING?  
YOUR  
BICYCLE?

I WAS  
LOOKING  
FOR  
SOME-  
THING.

YOU'RE  
DRENCHED.

YOU  
WOULDN'T  
HAPPEN TO  
BE LOST  
AGAIN?





AH...

HONDA-SAN!!



...YOU MEAN THE TIGER FROM THE CHINESE ZODIAC, SO...

EH? EH? BUT WHEN YOU SAY TIGER, YOU MEAN...

EH?!

P-PLEASED TO MEET YOU!  
UM...  
I'M TOHRU HON--



HONDA-SAN... THIS IS A TIGER.

EH?

KISA SOHMA. THE TIGER.

WATCH OUT. WHEN SHE BITES, IT HURTS.



KISA, APOLOGIZE TO HER.

THAT'S QUITE A BITE YOU'VE GOT THERE.

GOODNESS.

Y- YES...  
SH-SH-SHE STARTLED ME...

KISA!



DA...

chomp





BECAUSE OF ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, SHE'S STOPPED TALKING, SHE DOESN'T GO TO SCHOOL....

...AND FINALLY, TODAY SHE DIDN'T COME HOME.



...SO...

...TO CAUSE ALL THIS?

WHAT HAPPENED...



THAT?

THAT.



SO I WENT LOOKING FOR HER.

I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND HER IN TIGER FORM.

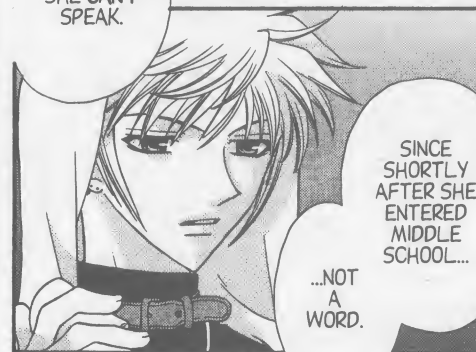
DID SHE BUMP INTO SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE GENDER?!

IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S JUST GOTTEN WEAK.



EH?

SHE CAN'T SPEAK.



SINCE SHORTLY AFTER SHE ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL...

...NOT A WORD.



YUKI-KUN

UM, I'M FINE, SO...

...SATCHAN DOESN'T SPEAK.



ACCORDING TO TORI-NII...\*



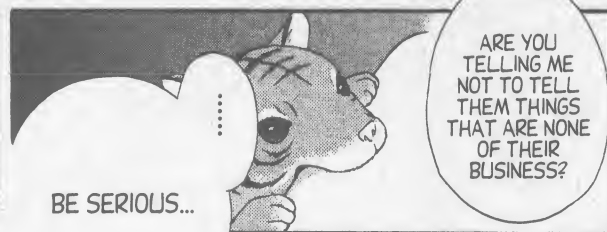
...THAT'S SEALED HER ABILITY TO SPEAK.

...SHE HAS AN EMOTIONAL PROBLEM...

**Fruits Basket 5  
Part 3:**

I played Tokimeki Memorial 2. I wanted... a limited edition one... Although I'm ashamed to admit it. (Oops! I just admitted it!) Instead of Takaya-kun, I got Hikari-chan to call me Natsuki-kun. But no matter what happened, the pronunciation was weird, so in the middle I changed it to my real name. I thought, "Whoa, she said my name!" (laugh). Leave it to me to win goldfish for you!! (laugh) (That's a lie. Truth be told, I suck at it.) As for Kotoko-chan, for no reason, I face the screen and tell her I'm sorry. And I sing along with the opening. (Big Mistake.) My voice is low and I have a small range, so I'm no good at singing. I end up in falsetto. Macky's songs are so high I can't sing them very well either. Basically, I'm tone-deaf.

Editor's note: Tokimeki Memorial (Tokimeki for short) is a super-popular Japanese dating simulator series. TokiMomo 2 for the Playstation featured an "Emotional Voice System" that allowed two of the girls to actually call out the player's name. TokiMomo 2 has a sequel which incorporates Dance Dance Revolution!

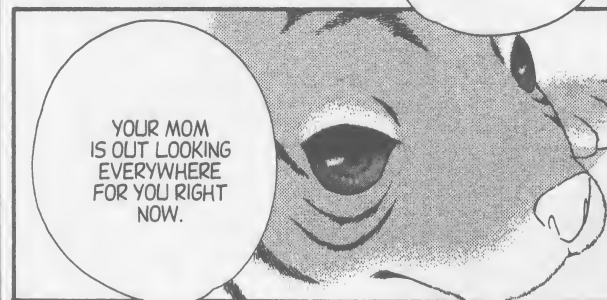


BE SERIOUS...

ARE YOU  
TELLING ME  
NOT TO TELL  
THEM THINGS  
THAT ARE NONE  
OF THEIR  
BUSINESS?



DO YOU  
REALIZE HOW  
MUCH WE'VE  
WORRIED OVER  
YOU?



YOUR MOM  
IS OUT LOOKING  
EVERYWHERE  
FOR YOU RIGHT  
NOW.



TEASING.



WHAT  
...?

ARE YOU  
MAD?

HA!  
HA!  
HA...!

THAT  
HURTS.

NO!!

ARE YOU  
JEALOUS?

YOU SEEM  
AWFULLY  
WORRIED  
ABOUT HER.

ARE THE  
TWO OF  
YOU SUCH  
GOOD  
FRIENDS?

...HUH?

YOU'RE  
SO  
COLD.

ISN'T  
HE?

THESE  
PEOPLE...

I JUST  
CAN'T  
LEAVE  
HER  
ALONE.

SHE  
REMINDS  
ME...

...OF THE  
TIME YOU  
WOULDN'T  
SPEAK,  
YUKI.

Kisa-san is  
missing...  
and the  
blood!

AaaaaH!  
HATSUHA-  
san, you're  
bleeding!

WHAT  
SHOULD  
...!?

WH-

CALM  
DOWN,  
TOHRU-  
KUN.

AH!

CALM  
DOWN...?

UH, UH, UM,  
I HAVE TO  
GET KISA-SAN  
TO STOP THE  
BLEEDING!

MM-MM...  
I'M JUST  
A LITTLE  
ANNOYED  
BECAUSE IT  
HURTS.

YOU'RE  
TOO CALM,  
SENSEI.

...THAT  
KISA'S  
HOPELESS.

HAA-KUN...  
YOU DIDN'T  
HAPPEN TO  
TURN INTO  
BLACK, DID  
YOU?





ARE YOU EMBARRASSED?



SUCH IS MY NATURE.

YOU KNOW, SENSE!...

...YOU HAVE A REALLY BAD HABIT OF SAYING THINGS THAT ARE LIKE POURING OIL ONTO A FIRE.



YES, IT IS.

COME NOW. IS THAT REALLY ANYTHING TO GET WORKED UP ABOUT?



SHUT UP!



IT WAS ALL YOU COULD DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF.

THAT'S WHAT SHE REMINDS ME OF.

...AND BE COMPLETELY SILENT.

YOU WOULD CURL UP IN A BALL...

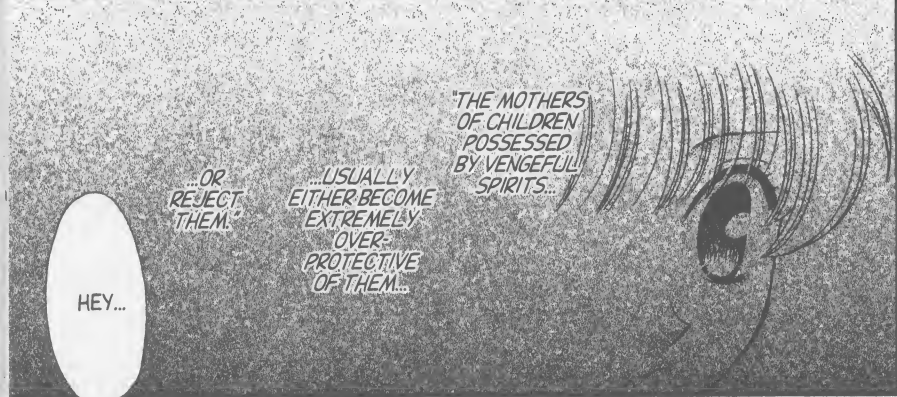
.....

.....

.....







I DIDN'T  
WANT  
ANYONE  
TO KNOW  
I WAS LIKE  
THAT.

I WOULD  
DESPERATELY  
MAKE UP  
STORIES TO  
TRY AND  
HIDE IT.

AND THEN...



I WAS SO  
SCARED.



...I'D FEEL  
EVEN MORE  
PATHETIC.

I WAS  
ASHAMED  
WHEN MOM  
FOUND OUT.

I WOULD  
THINK THAT  
I WAS SO  
PATHETIC  
FOR BEING  
TEASED.

I  
WONDERED  
...

WHAT WOULD  
I DO IF SHE  
STARTED TO  
HATE ME?

I WAS SO  
SCARED.

AND  
THEN...

BUT AFTER  
A WHILE, MY  
MOM FOUND  
OUT.

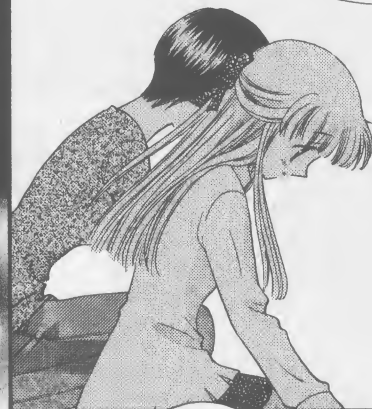
...I WOULD  
APOLOGIZE  
TO HER  
LIKE I WAS  
STUPID.



I WOULD  
FEEL...

...SO  
PATHETIC.

SHE  
CAN'T  
SAY IT.



TO TELL  
SOMEONE  
WHO CARES  
ABOUT  
YOU THAT  
YOU'RE BEING  
TEASED...  
...IS  
REALLY  
HARD  
TO DO.



I...  
COULDN'T  
SAY IT  
EITHER.





I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY...

...BUT...

BUT PLEASE...

IT'S BECAUSE SHE LOVES YOU...

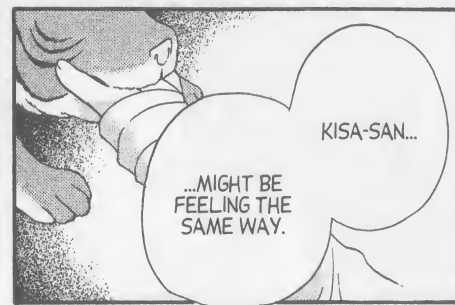
...THAT SHE COULDN'T TELL YOU.



...THAT I STARTED CRYING AGAIN.

...I WAS SO RELIEVED...

WHEN SHE TOLD ME, "THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF"...



KISA-SAN...

...MIGHT BE FEELING THE SAME WAY.



SHE DIDN'T WANT YOU...

...TO HATE HER.



AND ASHAMED.

SO...



...WHEN MOM TOLD ME...

..."IT'S OKAY"...

...I WAS SO RELIEVED.







ISN'T SHE  
HEAVY?

YOU HAVEN'T  
TRIED TO  
MOVE  
AWAY--

NOPE.



SHE'S  
ASLEEP?

YES.



EH?!



HUH?



....

SHE'S  
LUCKY...

KISA IS...



I THINK IT'S  
BEST WE  
TAKE  
CARE OF  
HER FOR A  
WHILE.

WHAT  
WITH EVERY-  
THING THAT  
HAPPENED  
TODAY...

EVERY-  
THING?

DOES IT  
MATTER?



KISA'S  
MOTHER  
WAS AT  
HER WITS'  
END.

WE  
SHOULD  
GIVE THEM  
BOTH SOME  
TIME APART TO  
RECUPERATE.



SHE'S  
GIVEN TO  
TOHUKU-  
KUN.

I DON'T  
SEE KISA  
ANYWHERE.

...I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THE HELL  
YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT.

Ah--...

And  
what are  
you doing  
here?



STAY  
HERE?

KISA?

I KNOW IT  
WILL GIVE  
ME THE  
COURAGE...

...TO TRY  
AND  
BECOME  
STRONG.

## Chapter 28



PLEASE  
LET ME  
WATCH  
HER...

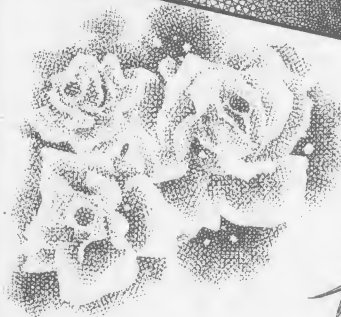
JUST  
FOR A  
WHILE...

UM,  
YU...

AH...

...JUST  
FOR A  
WHILE...

IT WILL  
GIVE ME...



...TO GO ON.



...THE  
COURAGE I  
NEED...

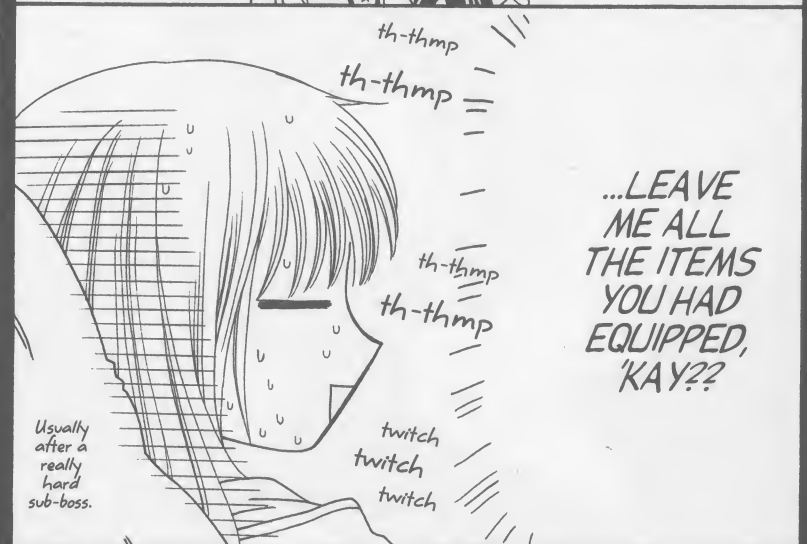




#### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 4

So people want to know what song Tohru was singing...  
Maybe it was "A\*daba\*a"...Would Tohru be too young  
to know it? Do all of you know it?

Sometimes they're gone for good...





I love you!!!

SHE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING IT.

tup  
tup  
tup  
...



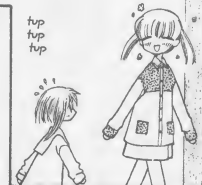
Sh-

SHE'S SO CUTE!!

STRANGELY,  
DURING  
THESE  
THREE  
DAYS...

...KISA-SAN  
HASN'T LEFT  
MY SIDE.

tup  
tup  
tup



tug

I just don't  
get it...

YO...

I'M  
HUNGRY.

AH! Yes,  
I'll start  
dinner!

KISA-SAN,  
WHAT SHOULD  
WE EAT TO-  
NIGHT?

.....

IT  
WARMS  
THE  
HEART!

SHE'S LIKE  
A LITTLE  
CHICK.

tup  
tup  
tup

I GUESS  
THAT  
MEANS SHE  
REALLY  
LIKES ME!

SHE'S NOT  
ANNOYED-BEING  
FOLLOWED  
LIKE THAT?

It'd drive me  
crazy.

# Fruits Basket 5 Part 4:

I played Hanagumi Columns 2\*. (I'm still talking about games...) At first, I thought, "Why don't they fall on their side...?" (That's Puyo Puyo.) Once I figured out the game play, I piled practice upon practice (laugh), and on Progression Mode I beat all but the highest level without incident. Anyway, it's hard!! That highest level is a killer! (laugh) Even my Sakura Wars mentor K-chan was saying "Hm" about it... But we were both talking excitedly, saying, "That thing from that thing? It's so great?!" (Thanks for always teaching me so many things, K-chan. I'm in your debt.) Puzzle games make my mind go blank. It feels as if only half of my brain is working. It's like exercise. And I'm in love with Mogiri! (laugh)

\*Editor's note: Hanagumi Columns 2 is a Tetris-like puzzle game based on the Sakura Taisen franchise.





EH?!

UH, NO, UM,  
I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO!

UM, THAT IS...  
WHAT SHOULD  
I SAY?!

LEEKS...SHE  
MIGHT AS  
WELL'VE  
JUST COME  
OUT AND  
SAID IT...

OF  
ALL THE  
THINGS...

JUST...  
DO YOUR  
BEST...

AAH! I'M  
SORRY!



I'M SURE  
SHE'LL  
START  
TALKING...

...IN AN  
ADORABLE  
VOICE.

Oh dear,  
they're  
having a  
lover's 'tilt over  
something  
like that.

What  
did you-?!  
Not!

Wow,  
Kyo-san. I  
didn't think  
you'd even  
known what  
a 'tilt' is.



YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
DECIDE  
USING THE  
LADDER  
GAME?

Oh,  
I  
see.

Yes!

KISA-SAN!  
POINT TO  
WHEREVER  
YOU LIKE.

HUH?

IT'S  
AMIDA  
KLUJI!



OKAY, IT'S  
DECIDED!

TONIGHT  
WE'RE  
HAVING...



...Nira-  
tama!\*

\* A dish with leeks  
and egg.



Ta-dah!

La-La  
La-La  
Laa...

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SINGING?

HERE,  
RIGHT?

OKAY,  
HERE WE  
GO!





AND...



...HER MOTHER...

gasp!



SHE CALLED YESTERDAY...

"IS KISA DOING WELL?"

MOMIJI-KUN...

...KISA-SAN'S MOTHER IS DOING BETTER.



"IS KISA EATING ENOUGH?"

"HER FAVORITE DISH IS NIRA-TAMA."

"KISA DOESN'T LIKE DRY FOODS VERY MUCH..."



WHAT WILL KISA DO AFTER THIS?

...RIGHT?

SHE'S PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.



THAT'S PROBABLY WHY SHE ENDED UP RUNNING AWAY.

SHE REALLY INTERNALIZES HER PROBLEMS. SHE OBSESSES OVER THINGS, MAKING THEM A BIGGER DEAL THAN THEY WERE BEFORE.



BUT...

...SHE CAN'T RUN AWAY...

...FOREVER.



SHE CAN'T STAY AT SHII-CHAN'S HOUSE FOREVER...



AT FIRST,  
IT WAS  
JUST THE  
WAY SHE  
LOOKED.

I HEARD  
SOME  
LADIES  
GOSSIPING.

LIKE HER  
HAIR AND  
EYES...  
IT MADE  
EVERYONE  
FEEL WEIRD,  
THEY SAID.

RUMORS  
START,  
YOU  
KNOW?

KISA  
WOULD  
NEVER TELL  
ANYONE.



YES, BUT  
WHENEVER  
ANYONE SAID  
THOSE THINGS  
TO YOU, YOU'D  
TURN BLACK  
AND BEAT  
THEM TO A  
PULP.

I GOT  
THAT A  
LOT, TOO.

SUCH IS THE  
FATE OF THOSE  
OF US WHO ARE  
POSSESSED BY  
SPIRITS WITH  
UNUSUAL HAIR  
COLORS.



EH?!

Now that's  
what I call a  
delinquent...

EH...?

WELL,  
I WASN'T  
AS BAD AS  
KYO...

HE'D BEAT  
THEM NEARLY  
TO DEATH.



.....  
!



RIGHT!!

Kya!

Kya!



THAT  
MEANS...

THAT MEANS  
KISA'S MUTTI IS  
THINKING ABOUT  
HER...RIGHT?



IF SHE WASN'T,  
SHE WOULDN'T  
CALL...RIGHT?

That's  
right!



On the outside, he  
doesn't care about  
the main reason.

...HUH...  
WHAT?  
I DON'T  
KNOW.

I KNOW.

STILL, I  
WONDER  
WHY...

...SHE WAS  
BEING  
TEASED?

ALL I CAN DO  
IS IMAGINE, SO  
THAT'S WHAT  
I DID...

...WONDERING  
HOW I'D FEEL  
IF EVERYONE  
STARTED  
GIGGLING AT  
ME EVERY TIME  
I SAID SOME-  
THING.

YOU  
KNOW...

I'VE...NEVER  
HAD THAT  
HAPPEN TO ME  
IN CLASS.

IT...

.....  
IT WAS A  
VERY...

...SAD  
FEELING.

THEN...

...EVEN  
THOUGH  
THEY WERE  
IGNORING  
HER...

...WHENEVER  
KISA SAID ANY-  
THING, THEY'D  
LAUGH.

SHE WASN'T  
TRYING TO  
BE FUNNY,  
BUT THEY'D  
JUST START  
GIGGLING.

BUT  
YOU KNOW...

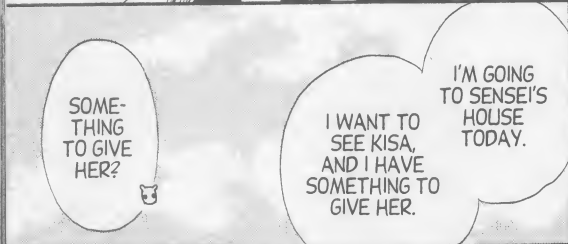
THEY SAID  
THAT KISA  
TRIED  
REALLY  
HARD.

SHE TOLD  
THEM SHE  
COULDN'T  
DO ANYTHING  
ABOUT HER  
HAIR AND EYE  
COLOR.

AND THEN...

...EVERYONE  
STARTED TO  
IGNORE HER.





\*Kim Koon Koon = School Balls



EVERYTHING LOOKS COMPLETELY DARK.

YOUR HEART...

...SHUTS DOWN.

...AND ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO SPEAK...

...EVEN KNOWING THAT ALL THAT DOES IS BOTHER EVERYONE.





I THINK  
I HAVE  
GOTTEN  
BRAVER.

...YEAH

WHAT'S  
MORE  
IMPORTANT  
...

...THAN  
ANYTHING?

EH?



FWIP

WHAT  
DOES IT  
SAY?

.....

slump



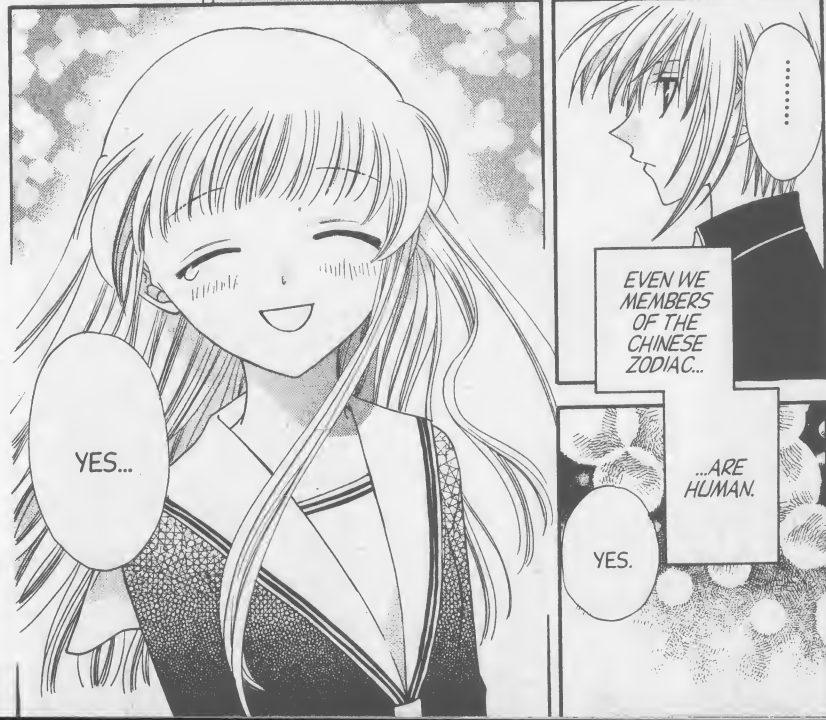
IN OUR  
SOCIETY,  
THEY TALK  
ABOUT  
SURVIVAL  
OF THE  
FITTEST.  
  
BUT  
WE'RE NOT  
ANIMALS...

...BUT I DON'T  
THINK IT'S  
GOOD TO BE  
TOO STRONG  
EITHER.

I KNOW IT'S  
NOT GOOD...

WE'RE  
HUMAN.

TO BE  
WEAK  
AND  
HELP-  
LESS...



YES...

EVEN WE  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
CHINESE  
ZODIAC...

.....

...ARE  
HUMAN.

YES.



JUST LIKE YOU.

THERE WAS A TIME...  
...WHEN I STOPPED TALKING.



...I THINK...  
THE FEELINGS ...

...OF BEING ASHAMED  
OF MYSELF AND HATING  
MYSELF...

...WERE A LITTLE BIT  
DIFFERENT...

...BUT ...

...IT SAYS TO "LIKE  
YOUR-SELF."

...ARE THE SAME.



...AND WHAT'S MOST  
IMPORTANT...

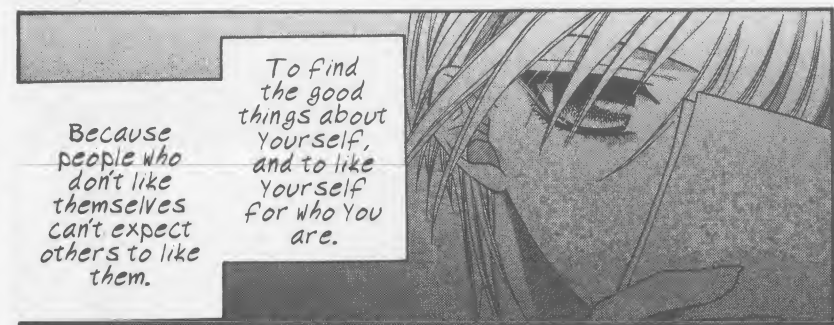
...IS FOR YOU TO LIKE  
YOURSELF,  
Sohma-san.

IT REALLY DOES MAKE  
YOU WANT TO VOMIT...

Egad...

Everyone in class  
is waiting for you  
to come back.

Sohma-san,  
how are you? Will you  
be coming to school  
soon?



Because people who  
don't like themselves  
can't expect others to like  
them.

To find the good  
things about yourself,  
and to like yourself  
for who you are.



I...

!





I THINK...

...WHEN YOU  
HEAR SOME-  
ONE SAY THEY  
LIKE YOU, FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME...

...THEN YOU  
CAN BEGIN  
TO LIKE  
YOURSELF.

I THINK WHEN  
SOMEONE  
ACCEPTS YOU,  
FOR THE FIRST  
TIME...

...YOU FEEL  
LIKE YOU  
CAN...

...FORGIVE  
YOURSELF A  
LITTLE.

YOU CAN  
BEGIN TO  
FACE YOUR  
FEARS...



BUT...

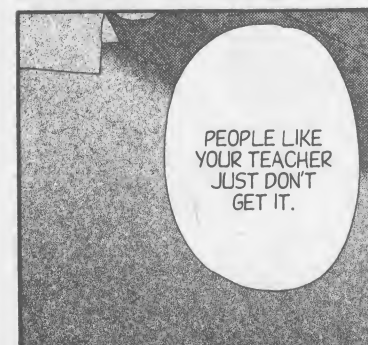
...EVEN IF  
YOU FORCE  
YOURSELF  
TO FIND GOOD  
THINGS...

...IT  
FEELS  
SO  
EMPTY.



IT DOESN'T  
WORK  
THAT WAY.

...



PEOPLE LIKE  
YOUR TEACHER  
JUST DON'T  
GET IT.



WHAT  
DOES THAT  
MEAN?

GOOD  
THINGS--

HOW ARE YOU  
SUPPOSED TO  
FIND THEM?

I ONLY  
KNOW  
THINGS  
THAT  
I HATE  
ABOUT  
MYSELF.

BECAUSE  
THAT'S ALL I  
KNOW, I HATE  
MYSELF.



...OR I'LL...  
BECOME...

...WORSE  
AND...  
WORSE.

EVEN IF  
MY HEART...

EVEN IF  
I CAN'T  
MAKE  
UP WITH  
THEM...

...IS STILL  
SEEN AS  
INFERIOR.

EVEN...IF  
THEY ALL  
IGNORE ME.

I STILL  
HAVE  
TO...

...TRY MY  
BEST.



KI...



KISA.

KISA,  
WHAT  
DO YOU...  
WANT TO  
DO NEXT?



SHAKE  
SHAKE

DO YOU  
THINK IT'S  
OKAY TO  
STAY LIKE  
THIS?



NO...

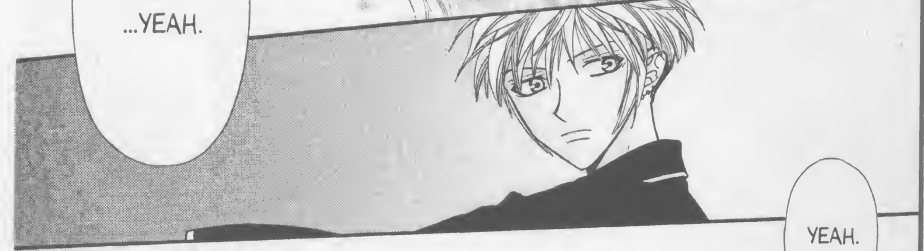
NEVER...

I HAVE  
TO...  
TRY MY  
BEST...



...WITH  
COURAGE

...YEAH.



YEAH.



I WAS  
SO  
HAP...

...PY...

YEAH...



YOU  
FINALLY

...SPOKE.



IT'S BEEN  
SO LONG...



LET'S  
TRY OUR  
BEST?



ONEE-  
CHAN.

I'LL TRY,  
TOO.



THAT'S  
RIGHT...

SOMEDAY...

...I'LL HAVE TO  
STAND UP FOR  
MY WORTH-  
LESS SELF.

...COME  
HERE.

AND IF YOU  
GET SAD  
AGAIN...

...OR IF  
THINGS  
GET TOO  
ROUGH...

HERE...

IS WHERE  
SHE IS.

LET'S  
TRY OUR  
BEST.







EVERYONE  
WALKED  
WITH HER  
PART OF  
THE WAY  
TO SEE  
HER OFF.



HE SAID  
HE HAD  
SOME-  
THING HE  
HAD TO  
DO.

YUKI  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
COME,  
TOO.

TO  
BE  
HONEST

...I WAS SAD  
TO SEE KISA-  
SAN LEAVE  
MY SIDE.



I'LL  
COPE  
WITH  
IT...

I HAVE TO.  
AFTER ALL,  
KISA-SAN IS  
FIGHTING SO  
BRAVELY.

AND  
SO...

...KISA-SAN  
SAID THAT  
SHE WOULD  
GO TO  
SCHOOL...

...EVEN  
THOUGH  
IT'LL TAKE  
A WHILE  
FOR HER TO  
GET USED  
TO SPEAKING  
AGAIN.



ONEE-  
CHAN...

I HOPE  
THAT  
SOME-  
DAY...

...MANY  
TEARS  
THAT  
WERE  
SHED...

...THE MANY...

...WILL BE  
WORTH IT.

Uwaaah!

Uwaaah!  
Kisa-saa-  
aan!

Uwah!



YOU'RE  
DOING  
THIS FOR  
ME--

NO.

I HUMBL  
Y REQUEST  
YOUR  
GUIDANCE.

YUKI-  
KUN.

IT'S NOT THAT...

whoosh...

SLAM

...I'VE SUDDENLY  
BECOME  
STRONGER...

BUT...

I'M STILL  
SHAKING.

...OR THAT  
SOMETHING  
HAS CHANGED.



WHA--

WHAT IS IT  
NOW...?

ABOUT  
SUCCEEDING  
YOU AS  
STUDENT  
BODY  
PRESIDENT

I ACCEPT.

You have to be elected first!



I WANT  
TO MAKE UP  
FOR IT BY  
FULFILLING  
THE DUTIES OF  
STUDENT BODY  
PRESIDENT.

I APOLOGIZE  
FOR RUNNING  
AWAY...

...AND FOR  
CAUSING YOU  
TROUBLE.

TRY YOUR  
BEST.

TRY YOUR  
BEST, KISA-  
SAN.



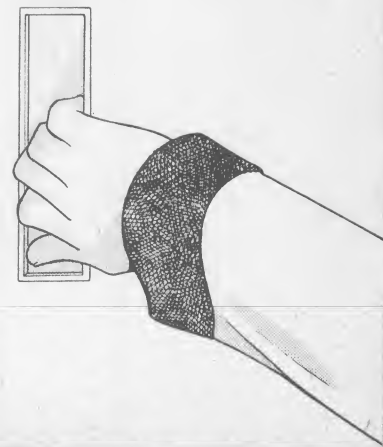
## Chapter 29

WE DON'T HAVE  
TO LET THOSE  
FEARS STOP US.

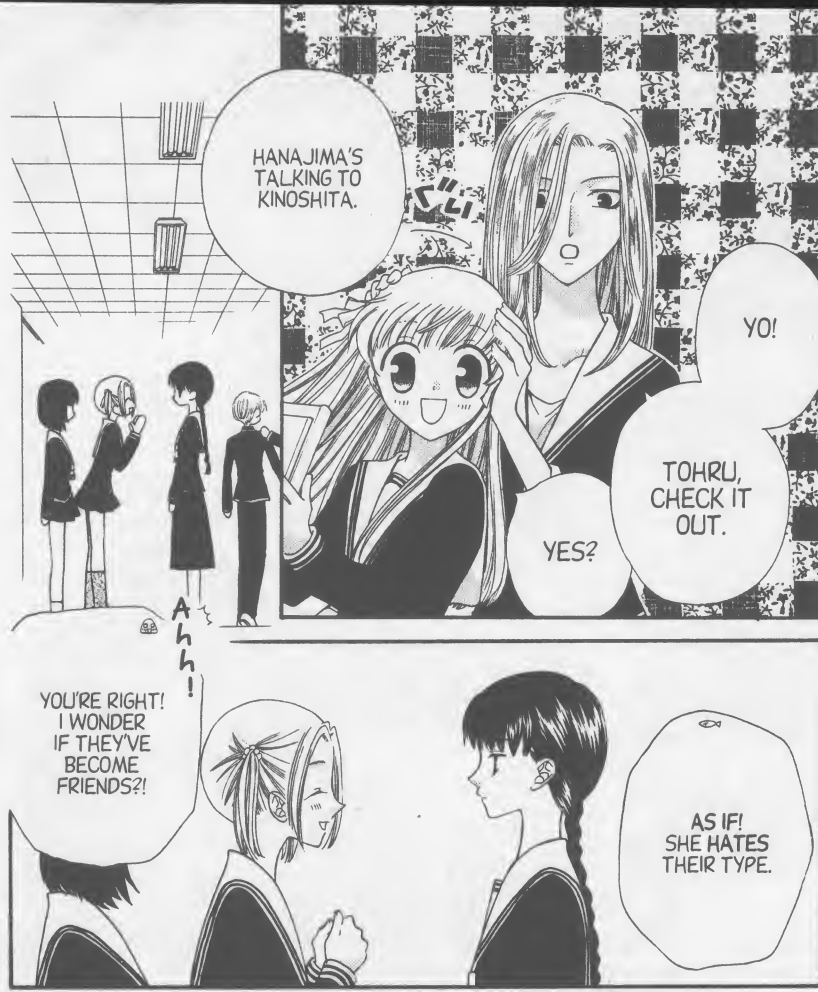


WHAT'S MOST  
IMPORTANT...

...IS THAT WE  
TRY TO RISE  
ABOVE OUR  
WEAKNESS.







### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 5

I don't know if they're good people or not, but every time Motoko-chan and company try to do something and it backfires, it makes me laugh so much that I can't help but like them. (Like Shouka\*.) Is that a mean thing to say? (laugh) I want to draw Megumi again. The strongest combo in Furuba, Saki & Megumi. (laugh)

\* A character in Takaya-sensei's previous series, *Tsubasa o Motsumono*.

I feel so grateful!

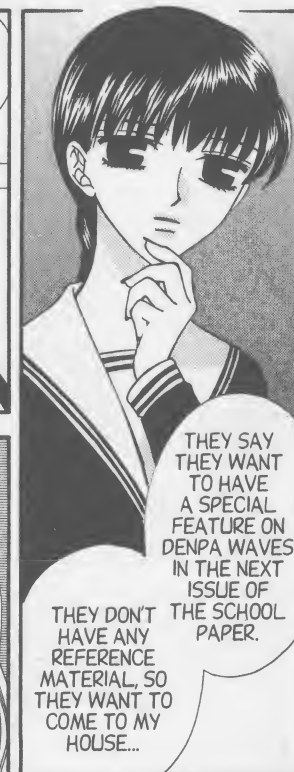
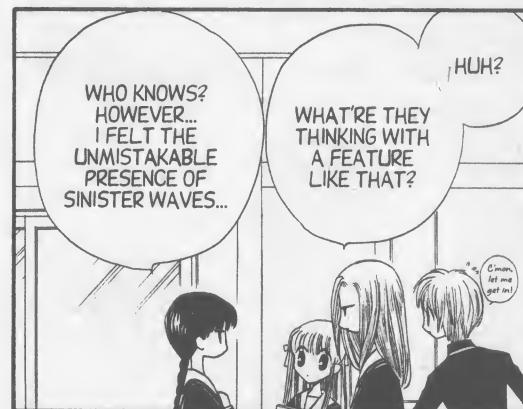
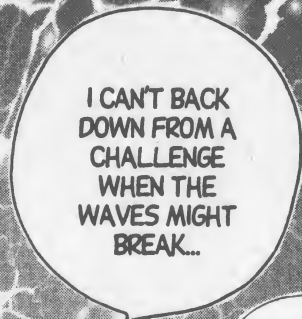
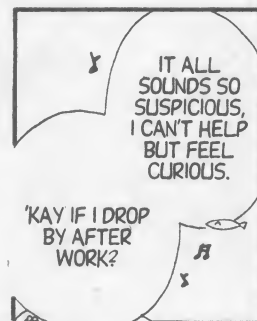


For Harada-sama,  
Araki-sama, Kawai-sama,  
Mother, Editor-sama, and  
everyone who reads this  
and supports me!

She's wearing her  
uniform from when she  
was in high school. It's  
slightly different from  
Kisa's middle school  
uniform.



Next is Momitchi.  
This has been Natsuki Takaya.



Fruits Basket 5  
Part 5:

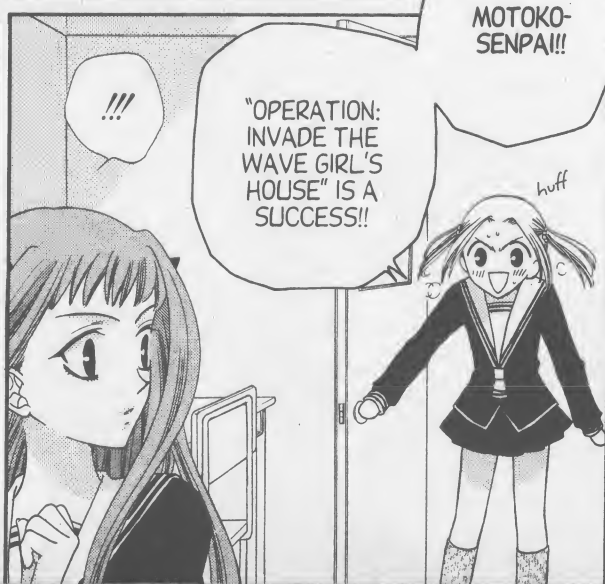
Also, lately I've played... (Yup. Here she goes again about her video games...) I finished Chrono Cross. I thought of a lot of things. (Not about the game.) I finally got through Resident Evil: Code Veronica, too. By far, the monsters I hate the most are the Hunters... Whenever a Hunter turned up, I screamed. I'm still in the middle of Legend of Dagoon. Better hurry up because Grandia 2 is coming out, and in the summer is Final Fantasy (isn't that wrong?). I have so much to do (laugh). When a FF game comes out, I drop everything to play it, so it's very dangerous. Will the Crystals be revived, or not? (Am I wrong?) Aahh, those were the days. The Crystal was shattered; it brings back memories... (She gazes off into the distance...) The darkness with the paladin and Gilgamesh and Excalibur and the fresh fish... (Gazing even farther into the distance...)



IT'S YUKI'S  
NATURAL  
LIGHT.

NO, IT'S  
SOME-  
THING  
ELSE.

THAT IS THE  
SPARKLE OF  
A PRINCE.



MOTOKO-  
SENPAI!!!

"OPERATION:  
INVADE THE  
WAVE GIRL'S  
HOUSE" IS A  
SUCCESS!!

!!!

huff



"SINISTER  
WAVES..."

YUKI'S BEAUTY  
SPARKLES EVEN  
BRIGHTER THAN  
USUAL!

WHAT IS  
IT? IS IT THE  
GLITTER OF  
THE DIGNITY OF  
BEING THE NEXT  
STUDENT BODY  
PRESIDENT?

NO...

SWOON...

HOW CAN  
IT BE?!



Prince  
Charming  
Mode

And so the club  
rules are strict  
and absolute.

1. Do not steal Prince Charming's private property.
2. Do not go inside the Prince's house.
3. When you talk to him, you must have someone with you.
4. Refer to him as follows:  
Third years = Yuki  
Second years = Yuki-kun  
First years = Sohma-kun
5. Etc.

Anyone who  
disobeys (even  
if they're not  
in the club)  
may or may not  
receive **harsh**  
punishment!!

"Prince Yuki" is  
the name for the  
Yuki Sohma fan club  
that exists  
within Kaibara  
High School.

They say its  
membership  
includes more  
than half the  
female student  
body!

Their club  
mission state-  
ment is "Let us  
all extol, love,  
and protect  
the Prince who  
has graced our  
school with his  
presence"...

...but what  
they really  
mean is,  
"Don't  
steal him,  
bitch!!"

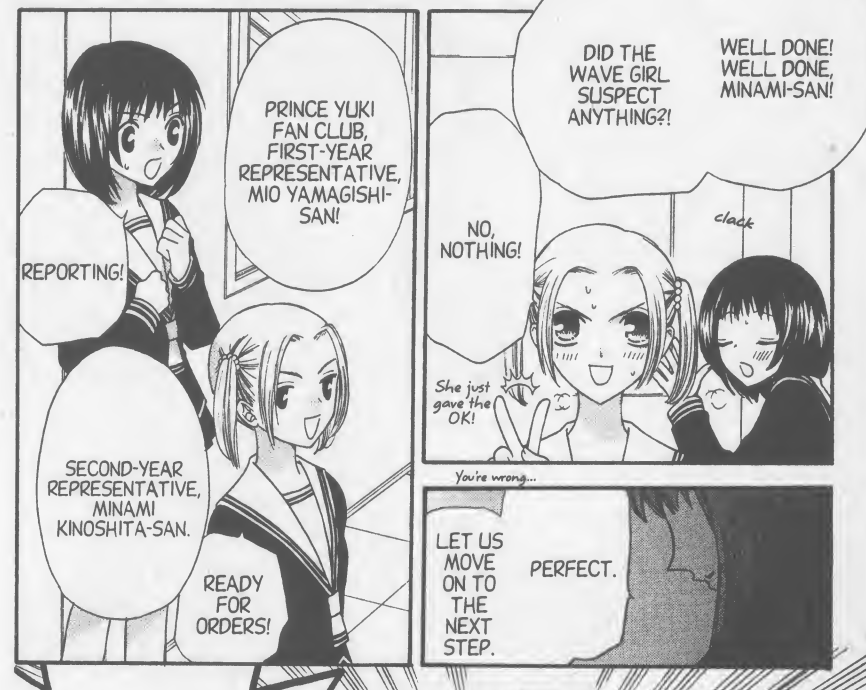
OUR CLUB CAN  
NO LONGER TURN  
A BLIND EYE TO  
THESE COUNTLESS  
TRANSGRESSIONS.  
NOW THAT MY  
SENIORS HAVE  
GRADUATED,  
I CAN FINALLY  
ENFORCE THE  
RULES PROPERLY...

TOHRU  
HONDA  
MUST BE  
PUNISHED!

THE  
EXTERMINATION  
OF TOHRU  
HONDA!!

AND I, THE  
THIRD-YEAR  
REPRESENTA-  
TIVE, MOTOKO  
MINAGAWA...

TOGETHER  
WE CANNOT  
FAIL IN OUR  
MISSION:





I was put to sleep for a week. I heard voices in my head the entire time. No one will believe me.

YES, THOSE WAVES ARE INDEED VERY TERRIBLE.

I FEEL YOUR PAIN, MINAMI-SAN...

See chapter 13...

NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, WE MUST FIND THE DEMON'S WEAKNESS...

BUT HANA-JIMA... SHE'S SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY!

THERE ARE STILL WAYS TO FIGHT HER!

ARISA UOTANI IS A YANKEE, BUT AT LEAST SHE'S HUMAN!

She crossed the limits of humanity long ago!

...AND USE THAT WEAKNESS TO SEAL HER POISONOUS WAVES!!

THAT IS WHY WE CANNOT ALLOW "OPERATION: INVADE THE WAVE GIRL'S HOUSE" TO FAIL.

YES...YES, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. BUT IF WE WANT TO ELIMINATE THE WITCH...

...FIRST WE MUST CAUSE THE DEMON WHO PROTECTS HER TO RETREAT.



AAH!

IF MY BELOVED YUKI WERE TO BE SO THOROUGHLY DECEIVED BY THIS WITCH, AND, GOD FORBID, FALL...FALL...

...FALL IN LOVE WITH HER, I...!!

PLEASE, STOP!!

WE HAVE TO PROTECT HIM FROM SUCH WITCHES!!

YOU'RE RIGHT... YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT, MINAMI-SAN!

TOHRU HONDA... THAT GIRL IS A WITCH!!

WHAT GIVES HER THE RIGHT TO LAUGH WITH YUKI, TO COME TO SCHOOL WITH YUKI...

...AND TO BE SO CLOSE EVEN TO THE RELATIVES OF THE DIVINE YUKI?!



A DEMON WHO CONTROLS ELECTRO-POISON DENPA WAVES!!

BUT THE WITCH IS PROTECTED BY A DEMON LORD WITH TREMENDOUS POWERS...

YES...

AND IN HER ROOM THERE'S A STRANGE MAGIC CIRCLE, AND FALLEN STATUES, AS IF SHE WERE STARTING SOME KIND OF RITUAL...

AND IN THE YARD THERE ARE TOMB-STONES!

...I SEE A CREEPY OLD WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE COVERED IN LOTS OF IVY, AND FOR SOME REASON THE SKY AROUND IT IS ALWAYS CLOUDY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HANAJIMA-SENPAI'S HOUSE WILL BE LIKE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW...IT'S JUST, WHEN I IMAGINE IT...

TEE HEE! SENPAI, WHAT WILL WE DO IF HER HOUSE REALLY IS FREAKY LIKE THAT?

♡

WHAT?! ALREADY?!

WE'RE HERE...

WE'LL RUN FOR OUR LIVES!!

What about your plan?

YES, MA'AM!

TO PROTECT YUKI'S YOUNG, TENDER HEART...

...LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST!!

HANA-JIMA-SAN, YOU RIDE THE TRAIN TO SCHOOL?

HUH?!

UM, OKAY...

WE TURN HERE...

THIS WAY.

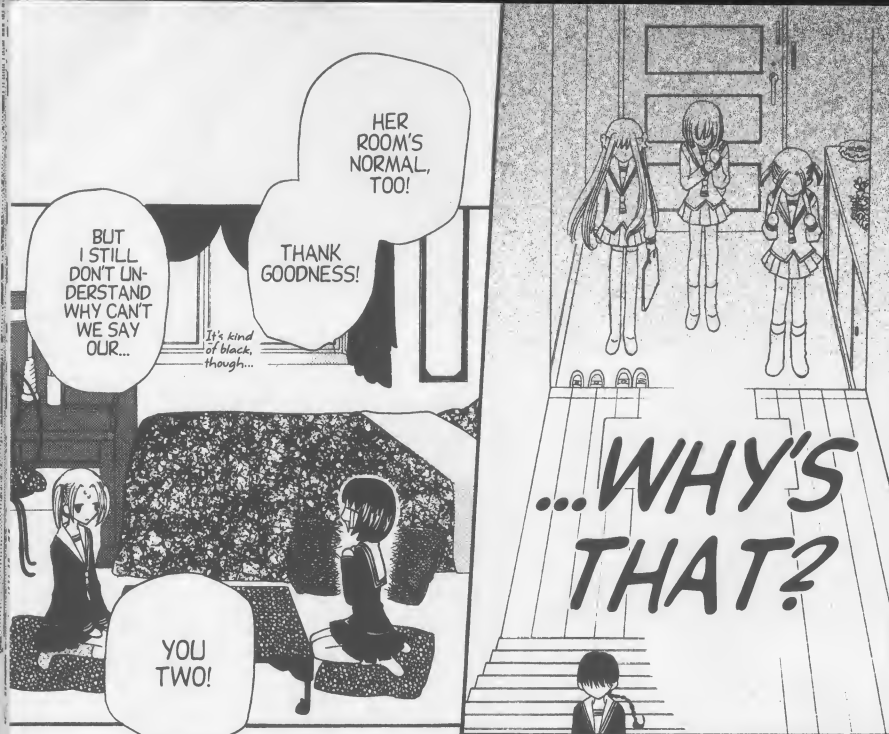
YES, MA'AM!

...BUT...

WE HAVE TO BE STRONG TO EXTERMINATE THE DEMON!

C'MON, YOU TWO. WE MUSTN'T HESITATE!





HER ROOM'S NORMAL, TOO!

THANK GOODNESS!

BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY CAN'T WE SAY OUR...

It's kind of black, though...

YOU TWO!

...WHY'S THAT?



A POEM!!

...A POEM!!

ANYTHING WILL DO. A DIARY, A PHOTOGRAPH...

How personal!

It seems like they're pretty used to this.

THE MORE PERSONAL, THE BETTER. IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, EVEN HER UNDERWEAR WILL...



NOW'S OUR CHANCE, WHILE THE DEMON IS MAKING TEA!

LOOK FOR THE DEMON'S WEAKNESS!!

Ah!

YES, MA'AM!



O-OH, MIO-SAN, YOU HAD US WORRIED FOR NOTHING!

IT'S A NORMAL HOUSE!!

THANKS FOR HAVING US.



FOR YOUR SAFETY, I SUGGEST YOU DO NOT SPEAK YOUR REAL NAMES IN THIS HOUSE...

THIS IS A PRETTY BIG HOUSE.

YOU THREE...

MEH?!  
HUH-WHA-?!  
UM... MEGUMI...?

creeak

HELLO...

MY YOUNGER BROTHER... HIS SHOES WERE HERE, SO HE MUST BE HOME FROM SCHOOL...

MEGUMI... COME OUT OF HIDING AND SAY HELLO...

Younger brother?

She had a little brother...?

She still has one.

JUST COME OUT OF THERE!

NO, THEY HAPPEN TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL, AND HAPPEN TO HAVE THE SAME GENDER, BUT THEY ARE COMPLETE STRANGERS.

IS SHE BEING SARCASTIC?!

YOU'RE NOT TOHRU-SAN AND ARISA-SAN...

ARE YOU NEW FRIENDS OF SAKI...?

...DO...

Shut

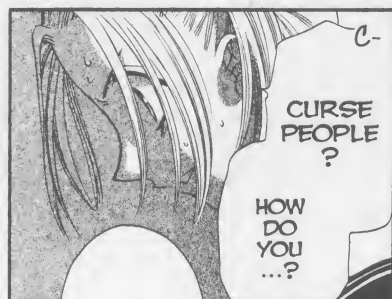
HANAJIMA-SAN—  
JUST NOW—  
BEHIND THAT  
DOOR—  
THERE—  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING—  
IN THERE—  
WHAT CAN  
IT-?!

I APOLOGIZE FOR MAKING YOU WAIT...



I'M...A  
LITTLE  
PROUD OF  
IT...

MY  
SPECIALTY IS  
RECIPROCATING  
CURSES WITH  
INCREASED  
INTENSITY...



C-  
CURSE  
PEOPLE  
?

HOW  
DO YOU  
...?



WITH  
THEIR  
NAME.

IF I KNOW  
SOMEONE'S  
NAME...

...IT IS EASY  
FOR ME  
TO PUT A  
CURSE ON  
THEM...



HE'S  
KINDA...  
STRANGE,  
ISN'T HE?

YOU REALLY  
SHOULDN'T  
SAY THINGS  
LIKE THAT!

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
SAY THINGS  
LIKE THAT!



YES,  
HE DOES!!  
HE LOOKS  
EXACTLY  
LIKE YOU!!

NO HE  
DOESN'T...

Y-YOU  
LOOK JUST  
LIKE YOUR  
SISTER.

UM...WELL,  
MEGUMI...  
KUN?

MEGUMI-  
KUN, CAN  
YOU...SEND  
WAVES OR  
SOMETHING,  
TOO?

eh  
heh  
heh...



...IS CURSE  
PEOPLE...

I CAN'T  
DO ANY-  
THING  
LIKE  
THAT...

Oh, good...

ALL  
I CAN  
DO...



THAT'S TOO MUCH TO THE POINT!!

HANAJIMA-SENPAI, DO YOU HAVE A WEAKNESS?

whisper  
whisper

SENPAI... I WANT TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW!!

I'm scared...

NO! REMEMBER WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO!!

whisper  
whisper

YEAH! WE JUST HAVE TO GET TO THE POINT...

whisper  
whisper

WHAT?

WHAT?!

WHAT?!

...HEAVY MATTER...

SUCH A...

...I DO.

!!

...YOUR NAMES...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

...I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD...

That's right!

HATE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND RUN, B-B-BUT SHE'S RIGHT! YUP! HONESTLY!! REALLY!!

YOUR NAMES...

Now, now!

IT WOULD BE RUDE OF US TO STAY TOO LONG!!

LET US FINISH OUR BUSINESS AND BE ON OUR WAY, L-LIKE A REFRESHING GUST OF WIND IN THE MONTH OF MAY!!

IT'S NOT  
JEALOUSY!  
WE'RE  
RIGHTFULLY  
ANGRY!!

ACTIONS  
SPAWNED FROM  
JEALOUSY  
ARE QUITE  
UNBECOMING...

HOW ABOUT  
THIS? WILL  
YOU ASK HER...

...TO PUT  
A LITTLE  
MORE  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN  
HERSELF  
AND YUKI?

THAT IS UP  
TO THE TWO  
OF THEM...

YEAH!  
WHO DOES  
SHE THINK  
SHE IS?!

WHAT MAKES  
HER THINK YUKI-  
KUN WANTS TO  
BE AROUND HER?  
SHE MAKES ME  
SICK!!

THAT  
SOUNDS  
LIKE  
JEALOUSY  
TO ME...

...WHAT  
ABOUT YOU?  
WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT  
TOHRU-KUN?

IT SADDENS  
ME TO KNOW  
THAT SHE IS  
LOOKED DOWN  
UPON...

...MERELY  
FOR HER  
ASSOCIATION  
WITH SOME-  
THING LIKE  
YUKI...



BUT TO  
LOOK FOR MY  
WEAKNESS...

...IS A VERY  
CHILDISH  
WAY TO DO  
THINGS...

TH--



THAT'S DIRTY!  
USING WAVES  
TO READ OUR  
MINDS!!

I AM NOT  
READING  
YOUR  
MINDS...

ALL  
RIGHT,  
GIRLS...

IT CAN'T BE  
HELPED.  
WE'VE BEEN  
FOUND OUT,  
SO LET'S  
STOP BEATING  
AROUND THE  
BUSH.

YOU'RE RIGHT.  
WE ABSOLUTELY  
DESPISE THE  
WITCH...I MEAN,  
TOHRU HONDA.

YOU ARE ALL  
IN THE YUKI  
SOHMA FAN  
CLUB, ARE  
YOU NOT...?

YOU MUST  
HATE THAT  
TOHRU-KUN  
HAS GOTTEN  
TO BE SUCH A  
GOOD FRIEND  
OF YUKI SOHMA  
RECENTLY...

YOU  
MUST  
WANT TO  
PUNISH  
TOHRU-  
KUN...

...BUT I  
AM IN  
THE WAY  
OF YOUR  
DOING  
THAT...

ARE YOU...  
SCARED...?

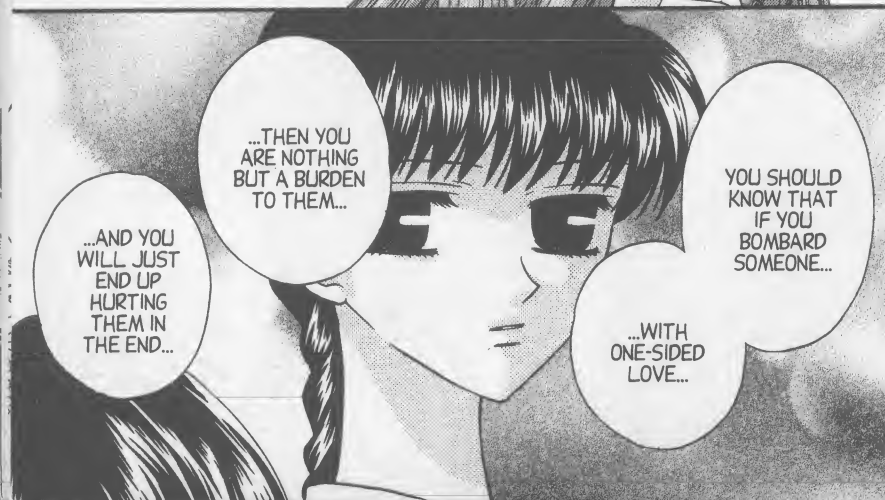


...YOU CANNOT SAY WHAT-  
EVER COMES INTO YOUR  
HEAD...

...AND ASSUME  
YOU WILL BE  
FORGIVEN...

IF YOU LIKE  
HIM, HOW CAN YOU  
SPEAK ABOUT HIM  
SO DISRESPECT-  
FULLY?

YOU SHOULD  
CHOOSE  
YOUR WORDS  
MORE  
THOUGHT-  
FULLY.



...THEN YOU  
ARE NOTHING  
BUT A BURDEN  
TO THEM...

...AND YOU  
WILL JUST  
END UP  
HURTING  
THEM IN  
THE END...

YOU SHOULD  
KNOW THAT  
IF YOU  
BOMBARD  
SOMEONE...

...WITH  
ONE-SIDED  
LOVE...



IT'S  
BECAUSE  
YOU LOOK  
DOWN ON  
TOHRU-  
KUN...

YES!  
BUT OF  
COURSE  
WE  
HEARD  
HER!

"SOMETHING  
LIKE"...?!

WHAT ABOUT  
YOU! YOU'RE  
LOOKING DOWN  
ON YUKI...AND  
ON US!

LOOK AT  
YOU! YOU'RE  
MOCKING US  
WITH THOSE  
LIGHT-LESS  
EYES!!

*Her eyes were like this  
from the beginning.*

YOU WOULD  
DARE CALL  
THE PRINCE A  
"THING"?!

DID YOU  
HEAR THAT?  
YOU TWO  
HEARD HER,  
DIDN'T YOU?!



MAKING THAT  
FACE LIKE  
SHE'S...LIKE  
SHE'S THE ONE  
YUKI LIKES THE  
MOST.

MAKING SPORT  
OF YUKI AND  
GETTING ALL  
CONCEITED!!

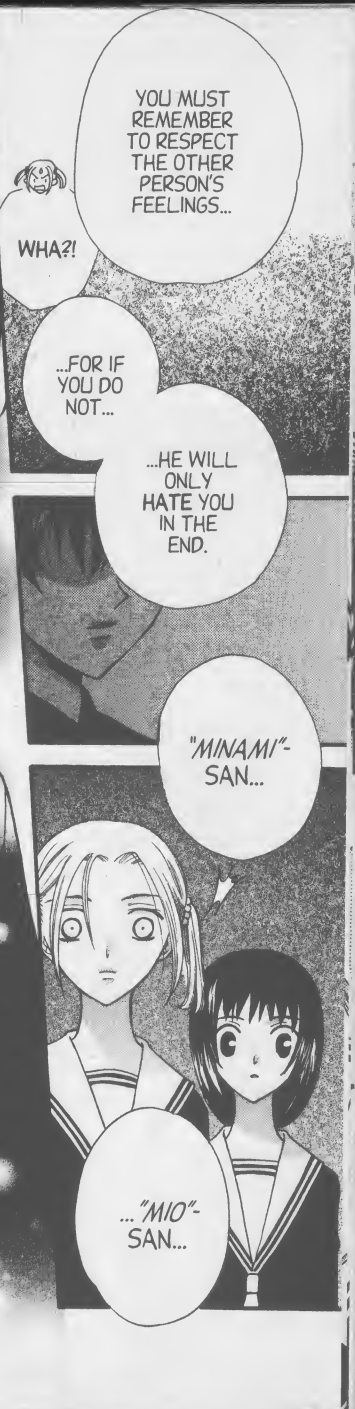
I-WE-  
TRULY  
ADORE  
YUKI.

DARE  
I SAY, WE  
LOVE HIM.

DO YOU UNDER-  
STAND HOW MUCH  
TOHRU HONDA'S  
ACTIONS ARE  
TRAMPLING ON  
THOSE FEELINGS?

IF YOU  
LIKE HIM...







...TOHRU-KUN?

I MET HER AT THE STATION.



HANA-CHAN...  
UH, UM,  
WHERE ARE KINOSHITA-SAN AND THE OTHERS?

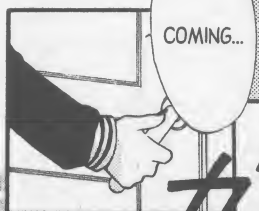
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE, TOHRU-SAN... ARISA-SAN.

Sup?



YES, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, MEGUMI-SAN.

Ah!



COMING...



カチヤ

YO!



HANA-CHAN!



"RESPECT THE OTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS."

BUT...

...I WAS A LITTLE...

...JEALOUS, TOO...

...ACTUALLY,

IT FELT LIKE THE SOHMA FAMILY HAD TAKEN TOHRU-KUN FROM ME.  
...LONELY.

YOU ARE RIGHT.

THAT'S WHY I CANNOT BE SELFISH...

YOU CAN LEARN FROM THEIR BAD EXAMPLE...

But it was rude of me to call Yuki Sohma a "thing"...

I MUSTN'T BE LIKE THOSE THREE...





...TOHRU-KUN.

ALL THE SAME...

...MY WEAKNESS WILL ALWAYS BE...



...IT CAN BE A LITTLE PAINFUL TO SEE THEM FIND HAPPINESS WITH ANOTHER...

...AND SOMETIMES YOU MAY GET LONELY...

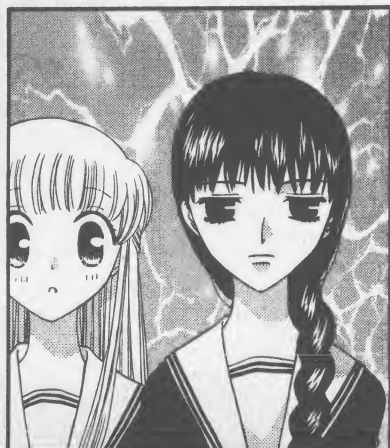
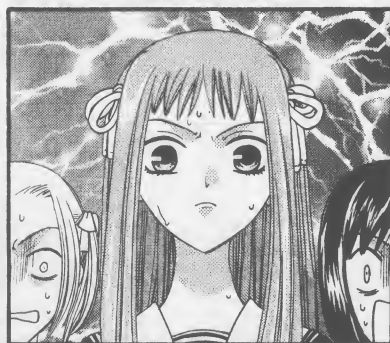
WHEN YOU TREASURE SOMEONE...

HEY, I THINK SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.



BUT...

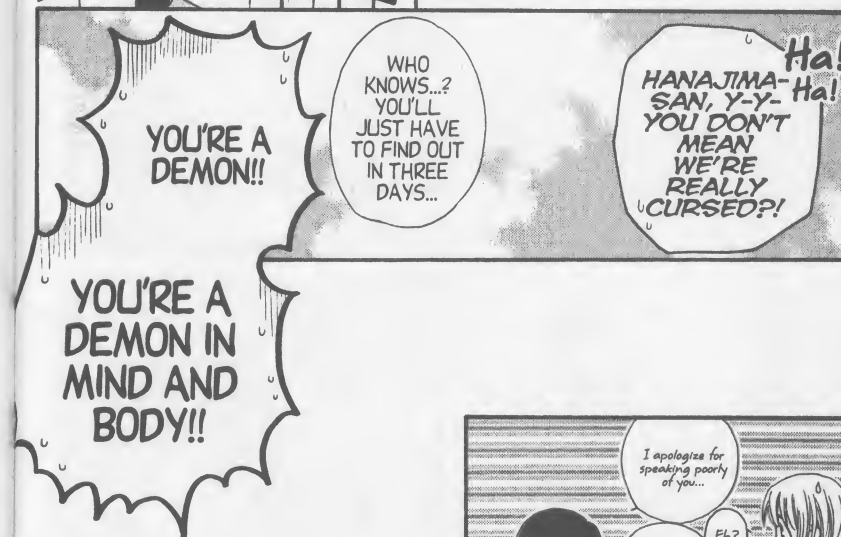
...IT CAN ALSO MAKE YOU HAPPY.







## Chapter 30



Fruits Basket 5  
Part 6:

Strangely, I'm really into candy lately. Cotton candy in particular. I like to keep some on hand to munch on. Only problem is, I've been making myself sick! (You're eating too much, duh.) Of course my brain tells me, "you've had enough!" But... (laugh) My favorite candy is gum. I'm always chewing it. As for Japanese sweets, I like things like dango\*. But I don't like azuki beans\*, so when I have a taiyaki\* or something, I'll squeeze all the paste out and then eat it. (You're probably wondering why I even bother trying to eat it.) ♡ The only thing I can eat even with the bean-paste in it is kashiwa mochi.\* When it comes to cake, I'm a cheesecake kind of girl. Yup. (Why am I talking about my favorite foods...?) As for rice, I like it with thick flavoring. So if it's too bland, I don't like it.

\*dango: dumplings of mochi (a chewy dough made of rice flour)

\*azuki beans: sweet red beans used in desserts throughout Asia

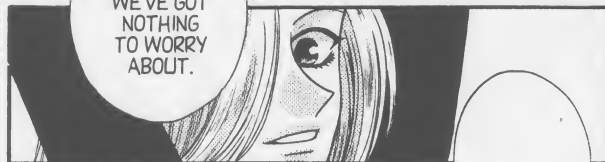
\*taiyaki: fish-shaped pancakes filled with azuki bean paste

\*Kashiwa mochi: mochi balls filled with azuki beans



YEAH, YEAH.

OF COURSE WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



RIGHT, TOH...RU...?

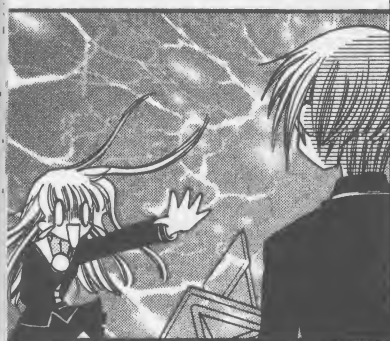


WHERE DOES YOUR HAPPINESS COME FROM?



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 6

What phrase were Shigure and Momiji using? Good question... (I just like to make them sing.) Oh, by the way, Tohru fell down once, but after that, she managed to walk home.



HONDA-SAN?

DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVE TO... TAKE A MAKE-UP TEST?



HONDA-SAN?

UM...

EH...?

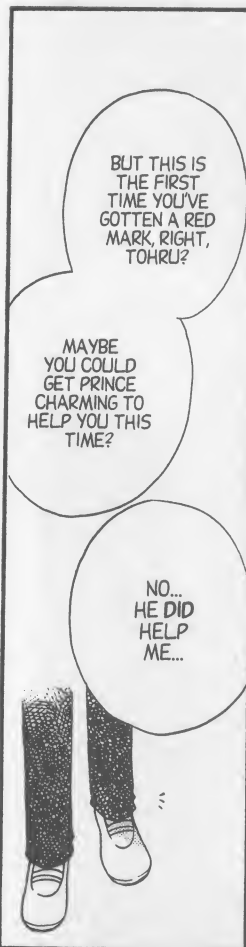
I'M SO SORRY !!



HOW MANY?



...YOU GOT RED MARKS?



BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE GOTTEN A RED MARK, RIGHT, TOHRU?

MAYBE YOU COULD GET PRINCE CHARMING TO HELP YOU THIS TIME?

NO... HE DID HELP ME...



THAT'S RIGHT, TOHRU-KUN...

THAT'S CUTE COMPARED TO ME. I GOT RED MARKS IN EVERY SUBJECT...

EVERYONE NEEDS TO GET KNOCKED DOWN A PEG KNOW AND THEN.

NO BIG DEAL! NOTHING TO GET DEPRESSED ABOUT!

WHAT? ONLY ONE?



SO...

...YOU HAVE TO TAKE A MAKEUP TEST?

I'M SO PATHETIC...



HEY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

DO YOU WANT ME TO JUST LEAVE YOU THERE?

Ahh...

FOR SOME REASON I HAVE A REALLY BAD HEADACHE!!

HONDA-SAN...

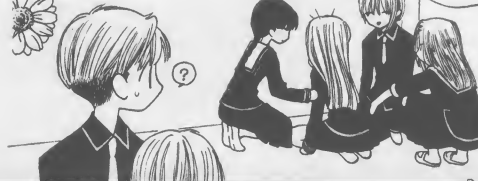
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH.

EVERYONE HAS THEIR OFF DAYS.

YEAH, YOU SHOULD KNOW.

YES... IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE...

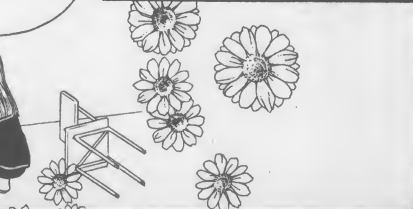
AND THE QUESTIONS ON MAKEUP TESTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE EASIER THAN ON NORMAL TESTS, SO YOU'LL DO FINE.



I'M SO PATHETIC!!

YUKI-KUN WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO HELP ME, AND I STILL GOT A RED MARK...

I'VE RETURNED HIS GOOD WITH FAILURE. I CAN'T FACE HIM!





?!



LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET...

HEY?!

...BUT IS THAT ANYTHING TO GET DEPRESSED ABOUT?

WHAT'S UP? HEY!

WHA...?



...THAT I'D GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL.

I'M SO PATHETIC. I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP THE PROMISE I MADE WITH MOM...

TO THINK I GOT A RED MARK.



I CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT...



AHH! WHY?!

HOW COULD I ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN?



...GET IT TOGETHER ?!

WHY CAN'T I...



SOME-HOW...

...I'VE BECOME EXTREMELY DEPRESSED.

I'M HAVING A HARD TIME WALKING.



And  
confusing!!

That's  
dangerous!

DO YOU  
HAVE A  
FEVER?!

HAUEHH  
...

WAIT A  
SECOND--DID YOU  
GET A FEVER  
RIGHT AFTER  
I SAID IT?!



I COULDA  
TOLD YOU  
THAT MUCH!

JUST  
MAKE HER  
GET SOME  
SLEEP  
ALREADY!

HAH...

A COLD.

38.2  
DEGREES  
CELSIUS.\*

\*(100.8 degrees  
fahrenheit)

THE  
NAME OF  
TOHRU-  
KUN'S  
DISEASE  
IS...



YOU KNOW,  
YOU'LL END  
UP WITH A  
FEVER IF YOU  
KEEP THAT...

...UP...

slump

SHEESH...

YOU'RE  
HOPELESS...

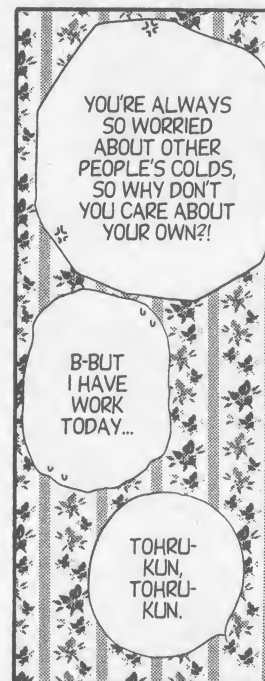




YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL.  
SO DO WHAT I SAY, OKAY?



\*Tahru's polite, even when she sighs!





I'll try  
my best  
to clean  
Tohru's  
share!!

Where  
does this  
kid come  
from?

Well,  
He is  
adorable.

Whatever,  
He's so  
cute.

SO  
TODAY...

...I'LL BE  
WORKING IN  
HER PLACE!



EH?!

THIS CAN'T BE.  
SURELY MY  
EYES DECEIVE  
ME! KYO-KUN,  
WHAT CAN YOU  
POSSIBLY BE  
DOING?



CAN'T  
YOU TELL  
FROM  
LOOKING?

simmer  
simmer



MOMITCHI,  
YOU'RE SO  
LOUD!

IS SHE  
OKAY?!  
IS SHE  
GETTING  
ENOUGH  
REST?!

TOHRU  
HAS A  
COLD?!

EH  
?!



.....  
?

Leave  
what?



OKAY, YOU  
KNOW,  
ABOUT  
TODAY--

TOHRU IS  
STAYING  
HOME SICK!



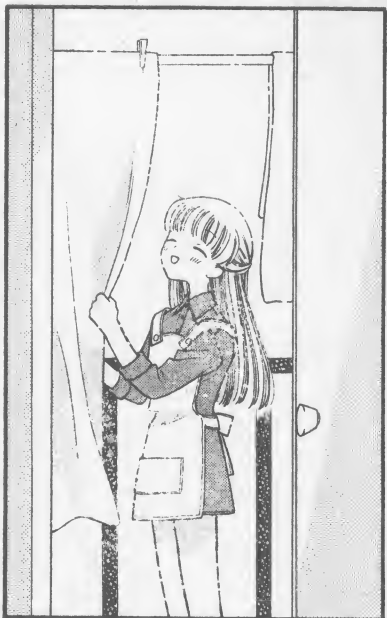
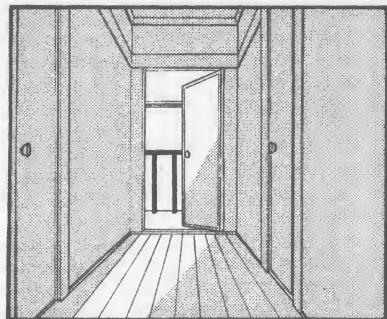
I MADE HER  
TAKE THE DAY  
OFF WORK SO  
SHE COULD  
REST.

SO SHE  
WON'T BE  
GOING OVER  
THERE  
TODAY.

AH! I SEE!  
OKAY, I GOT  
IT!!

LEAVE IT  
TO ME!!

7!!



HE'S  
QUITE THE  
GENTLEMAN,  
ISN'T HE?



You  
got a  
problem  
?!

W  
H  
A  
T  
?!

IS THIS FOR  
TOHRU-KUN?

YOU CAN'T  
EXPECT A  
SICK PERSON  
TO COOK FOR  
HERSELF.

So...

simmer  
simmer

Medley soup

BY THE  
WAY, WHAT  
ARE WE  
GOING TO  
EAT?

BUT I  
DIDN'T SAY  
ANYTHING.

simmer simmer simmer



IF YOU  
BREAK MY  
HOUSE, I'LL  
CHARGE  
YOU FOR  
REPAIRS!

Charge,  
charge!

Stomp  
Stomp  
Stomp  
Stomp  
Stomp

TAKEOUT,  
WHAT  
ELSE?!

AND WHY  
DO I HAVE  
TO DO THIS,  
ANYWAY?!





WHEN YOU'RE  
DONE, LEAVE  
THE DISHES IN  
THE HALL.

UM...

UM...

FOR  
EVERY-  
THING.

UM...I'M  
SORRY!



HN.



OKAY...



...THEN  
GET OVER  
THAT  
COLD.

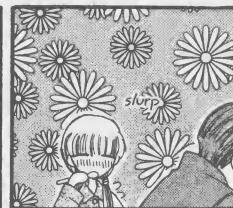
IF  
YOU'RE  
REALLY  
SORRY...



JUST EAT  
ALREADY!

YEAH, YEAH.  
ALL RIGHT.

YES,  
THANK  
YOU!



IT'S  
DELICIOUS!



YOU MADE  
THIS, KYO-  
KUN?!

THAT'S  
AMAZING.

I'M SO  
HAPPY!

...LEVEL-  
HEADED...  
SOMEONE  
PEOPLE CAN  
DEPEND ON!

I FAILED  
YUKI-KUN,  
TOO.

...TO  
BE...

AND NOW  
I EVEN  
CAUGHT  
A COLD.

I-I WANT  
TO BE...

YOU CAN MAKE  
UP FOR GETTING  
AS MANY RED  
MARKS AS YOU  
WANT WITH  
MAKEUP TESTS.

YOU CAN  
OVERWORK  
HIM UNTIL  
HE DIES.

Do us  
all a  
favor!

AND  
WHO CARES  
ABOUT THAT  
DAMN YUKI?

ARE YOU  
DONE?

I'M DONE...





...HE'S TRYING...

TO CHEER ME UP!

IT REALLY IS DELICIOUS.

.....

THIS...



Y-YES!

Hey!

THIS MEANS...

EAT! NOW!  
YOUR FEVER'S  
NEVER GONNA  
GO DOWN!



THERE'S  
NO WAY  
THAT  
TASTES  
GOOD.

NOT AT ALL,  
COMPARED  
TO...

...YOUR  
COOKING.



I'LL GO  
CRAZY.

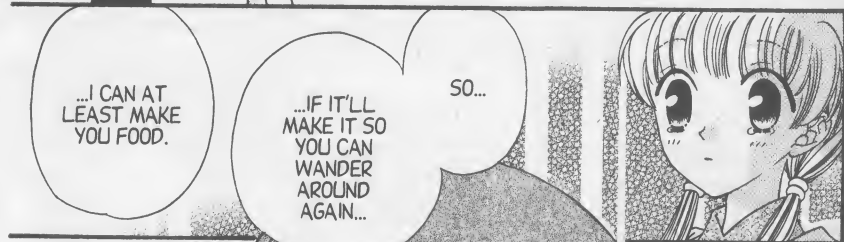
IF YOU  
DON'T, I'LL...

IT'S NOT COOL  
MAKING YOUR-  
SELF SICK FROM  
WORRYING.

JUST GET OVER  
IT SO YOU CAN  
WANDER AROUND  
THE HOUSE WITH  
THAT IDIOTIC  
EXPRESSION LIKE  
YOU ALWAYS DO.

I'LL...

I-  
idiotic?



...I CAN AT  
LEAST MAKE  
YOU FOOD.

...IF IT'LL  
MAKE IT SO  
YOU CAN  
WANDER  
AROUND  
AGAIN...

SO...



...ABOUT  
ALL THAT  
CRAP.

SO...

DON'T  
WORRY...



IT'S ALL  
RIGHT. IT  
DOESN'T HURT  
AT ALL.

BUT SHII-  
CHAN WAS  
SAYING IT  
HURTS! HE  
SAID IT HURT  
A WHOLE  
LOT!!

HE SAID HE  
KEPT GETTING  
THE WRONG  
PLACE!!

I DID  
THAT ON  
PURPOSE.

...KYO-KUN.

DON'T GET  
IT WRONG,  
HARI!!

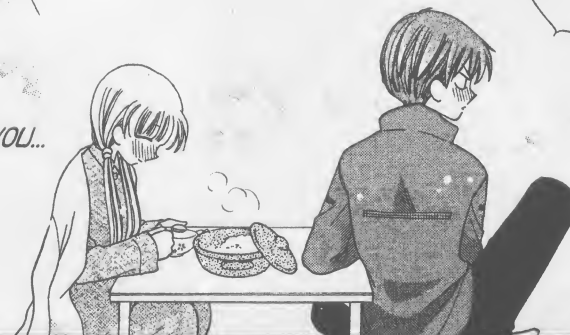
IF TOHRU  
STARTS  
TO HURT,  
STOP, OKAY!

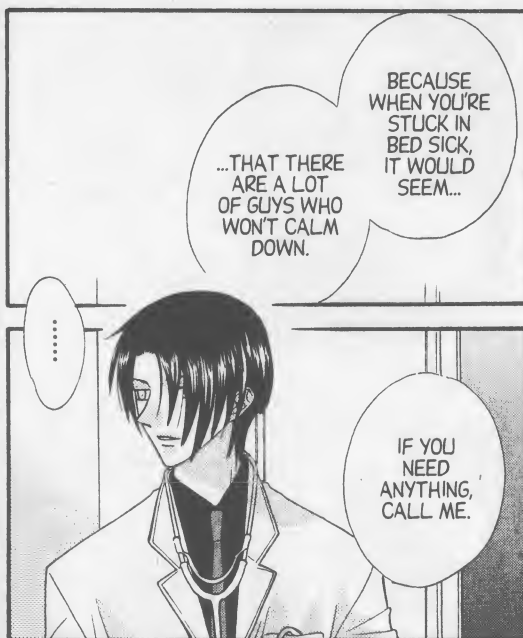
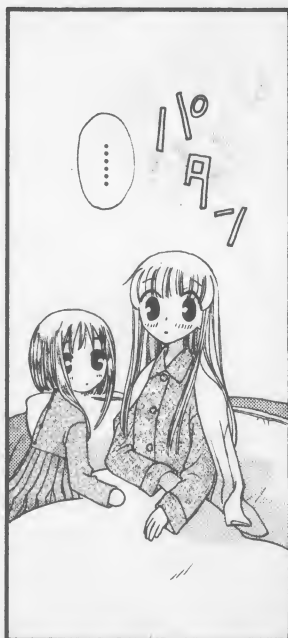
THANK YOU...



YOU BEING  
LEVEL-  
HEADED  
WOULD BE  
CREEPY.

THANK YOU...





\*oji= uncle. Usually reserved for middle-aged men and not someone in their twenties.



WANTING TO GET  
BETTER...

HELL  
NO,  
RUNT.  
Shut up!  
Go away,  
kid!

What,  
what is  
that,  
Kyo?  
Are you  
training  
to be a  
bride?!

...NOT FOR  
MYSELF...

...BUT FOR  
OTHER  
PEOPLE...

...IS A  
WONDERFUL  
FEELING.

She might  
make some-  
thing for  
you to thank  
you!

Huh?

Haa-san,  
what would  
you like to eat  
of Totoru-  
kun's home  
cooking?

THAT'S GOOD.  
IN THE  
MEANTIME,  
HERE.

HUH?

I GATHERED  
QUESTIONS  
TO HELP YOU  
PREPARE FOR  
THE MAKEUP  
TEST.

AH!  
YES! OF  
COURSE!

CAN  
I...

COME IN  
NOW?

HE SAID I'LL  
PROBABLY  
RECOVER  
SOON.

WHAT...  
DID HATORI  
SAY?

EH?!

IF YOU  
CAN  
ANSWER  
THESE,  
I'M SURE  
YOU'LL  
DO FINE.

WHEN YOU'RE  
FEELING BETTER,  
WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO GO OVER  
THEM WITH ME?

AH...

THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH!!



Next time in...

# Fruits Basket



6

Natsuki Takaya

## Secrets & Lies...

It's been raining for days on end and Tohru can't help worrying about Kyo's crankiness. On a particularly soggy day at the Sohma household, out of the rain steps Kyo's master! It is time for the Cat to learn the truth!! The drama is almost too much to bear in the 6th volume of the ever-popular Fruits Basket.

Fruits Basket Volume 6  
Available December 2004

MY  
HAPPINESS  
COMES  
FROM...

...THE  
KINDNESS OF  
EVERYONE  
AROUND ME.



HANAJIMA-  
SAN... DID YOU  
FAIL ON  
PURPOSE...?

THE MAKE-  
UP TESTS  
REALLY ARE  
EASIER...

DON'T  
WORRY,  
MOM...

I GOT  
PASSING  
MARKS  
ON THE  
MAKEUP  
TEST.

To be continued in volume 6...

**26) Do Yuki-kun and other characters have likes and dislikes?**

Oh, they have their personal preferences, all right. I've been thinking how it'd be nice to write about such things. (But this is still pending...)

**27) How are the sales of Shigure's novels? Is he considered a fairly popular writer?**

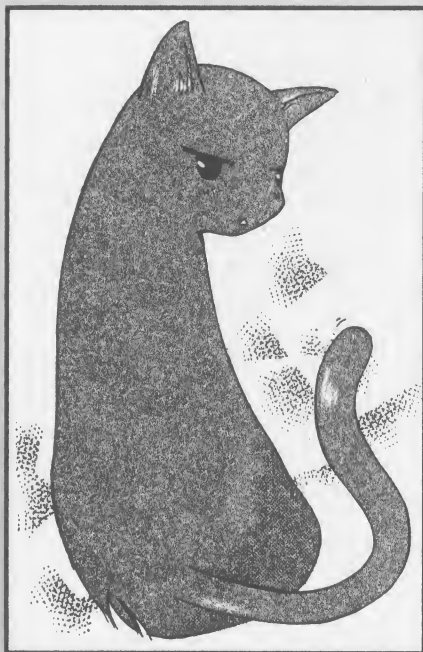
At the moment, the books he wrote under the name "Karitani Noa" (Like *Summer-Colored Sigh*) seems to be the most popular. Incidentally, that's not the only pen name Shigure uses. Shigure will do whatever he can to not lose to Ayame. Seems like he's fairly popular.

**FRUITS BASKET- Original Drama CD**

**28) The "Fruits Basket" CD has an original story, but why did you feature a crazy subject like nagashi soumen? (Note-see the omake comic in vol. 4!)**

Well, it's pretty much because I was thinking to myself how I'd never actually had any nagashi soumen. I certainly made things difficult for myself by making a story about that, huh?

**29) Did you also write the short, comedy story that's included in the interval of the main story?**



Yup. It was because I was practically itching to make the CD more fun and laughable. I feel that things that are fun make people happy.

**30) In that short story, what on earth was the thing that Kagura made?**

Obviously a cat backpack! She has such marvelous workmanship that she's a celebrity in her neighborhood... possibly. (laugh)

**31) Any last messages for your fans?**

Thank you so very much for reading! As the Fruits Basket characters keep grabbing for each other, laughing and crying, let's keep walking down the road of life. Please keep watching over me.

**Interview with Takaya-sensei**  
Part 8

**22) Can members of the *juunishi* (12 zodiac animals) only be born if a close relative (parent/sibling/step-parent, etc...) is also one of the *juunishi*? Can "outside" Sohma members give birth to *juunishi* children, or only "inside" Sohmas?**

Being directly related to another *juunishi* and being "inside" or "outside" aren't factors in when a new *juunishi* is born. It's all a matter of timing. Basically, it's random. Right now all of the *juunishi* members are pretty close in age, but in the history of the Sohma family, this is unusual.

**23) Will Yuki's and Ayame's parents be making an appearance?**

At this time, they are scheduled to show up.

**24) Do any of the characters in *Fruits Basket* participate in school clubs?**

Hmm... Now that I think about it, I guess there isn't anyone who does club activities... I guess none of them have enough of an interest in such activities to get involved. Some of them do take extracurricular lessons, though. Like Kyo. Momiji takes lessons, too... But don't ask me to draw it! It's hard enough for me to tell the stories I'm already telling without getting into *that*!

**25) It's been established that Kyo-kun hates onions, leeks and miso, but why these three things?**

He doesn't like the taste of onions. He hates the smell of leeks. And like many kids, he dislikes miso and other stinky bean curd products.



# Year of the Boar: Going Whole Hog



Another interesting point to bring up about Boars is that women born in this year tend to be neat freaks—especially where their home is concerned. You would be hard pressed to find a speck of dirt or dust anywhere in sight. Male Boars on the other hand will never be able to shake the troublesome stigma that all they would rather do is wallow in the mud all day.

Even so, Boars of both sexes have a genuine thirst for knowledge and are typically well-informed individuals. They are hard working and have almost too much energy at times. Boars are often taken advantage of because they can never say “no” when asked for help. Sadly, this tends to lead them into money problems at some point or another in their life. And while Boars do manage to find a way to crawl out of their rut, they can never quite seem to keep themselves out of it due to their inability to see the sky for the trees.

## Celebrity Boars:

Christina Applegate  
Tom Arnold  
David Boreanaz  
Val Kilmer  
Stephen King  
Winona Ryder  
Miss Piggy

## Boar

**Years:** 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031, 2043

**Positive Qualities:** reliable, sincere, tolerant, caring, industrious, persistent, brave

**Negative Qualities:** shy, one-track mind, short tempered, headstrong

**Suitable Jobs:** teacher, nurse, researcher

**Compatible With:** Rabbits, Sheep, Tiger (and Cats!)

**Must Avoid:** Snake, Monkey, other Boars

**Ruling Hours:** 9 PM to 11 PM

**Season:** Fall

**Ruling Month:** November

**Sign Direction:** North-Northwest

**Fixed Element:** Water

**Corresponding Western Sign:** Scorpio

The Boar is the last of the twelve great animals of the Zodiac. While it can generally be assumed that the Boar was off feeding its face for most of the great race, one lesser-known version of the fable centers on the animals being asked to tell why they deserved to reside at the top of the Zodiac. While the Bull said it helped the farmer plow the fields and the Snake talked about how smart it was, all the Boar could come up with was that the meat on its bones tasted good to eat. Sure this might not sound like a very positive thing to say, but at least the Boar was being honest.

Boars are born with an inner strength that few others can match. Offsetting the Boar's bravery is their horribly short temper that makes it all too easy for a Boar to fly into a rage at the slightest provocation. Luckily, Boars generally dislike having arguments and seldom harbor any long-term grudges against anyone that has the unfortunate luck of crossing them. For anyone lucky enough to befriend a Boar though, they are often greatly rewarded as Boars are extremely loyal and prefer to have a smaller, more close knit group of friends that are with them a lifetime.

These three panels are early drafts for Takaya-sensei's previous work, *Tubasa O Motsu Mono (Those With Wings)*. You can see how much the designs influenced her newest work, the ever-popular *Fruits Basket*!



\* Note: If you were born in January or early February, then chances are you are probably the animal of the preceding year. The only way to know for certain is to know on which day Chinese New Year's was held. Example: 1983 actually starts on February 13, so anyone born between January 1 and February 12 is still a Dog.